

D Bold

# NAGALO

PHRASE-BOOK  
GRAMMAR  
DICTIONARY





# Fanagalo

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DICTIONARY

J. D. BOLD



J.L. van Schaik

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# 1 Facts about Fanagalo

In the RSA there are ten different written languages which are widely used: Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Zulu, Venda, Tsonga (Shangaan), SePedi (North Sotho), SeSotho (South Sotho), SeTswana, and SiSwati. In Namibia the languages used in addition to Afrikaans and English are: German, Herero, Ovambo, Nama and Damara. In the neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe several more languages are spoken.

Fanagalo was, for all practical purposes, a communication bridge between these numerous and diverse languages. It is regarded by many people as a *lingua franca* of Southern Africa. As such it still is used by thousands of Whites and Africans. It has, in fact, been spoken since pioneering days.

## Everyday terms

The words listed in this book are confined to useful, everyday terms. No attempt has been made to distort the simple character of Fanagalo by inventing translations for scientific, political or philosophical terms. Particular care has been taken to make the spelling consistently phonetic, so that once the simple pronunciation key has been memorised any new word can be spoken with confidence.

This book is small enough to carry around in your pocket. It is designed for the use of housewives, farmers, industrialists, motorists, sportsmen, doctors and nurses – for anyone who employs or comes into contact with African men or women and finds a European language inadequate to get ideas across.

## Easy to learn

Fanagalo is not an artificially-manufactured language like Esperanto. No learned professor sat down and invented it in a moment of inspiration! The fact that it is a vigorous language, must be attributed mainly to two things:

1. It is more easily and speedily learned than any other language in the world.
2. It is a widely *spoken* language, in constant use, filling a real need.

## The basis of Fanagalo

Fanagalo is a very much simplified version of Zulu, Xhosa and related languages with adaptations of modern terms from English, Dutch and Afrikaans. It probably evolved in the Eastern Cape and Natal, and later Zimbabwe during contacts between European settlers and African tribes, and it developed on diamond diggings, gold mines and farms to meet the urgent need for a common language that could easily be acquired by Zulus, Xhosas, Swazis, BaSothos, BoTswanas and Matabeles, and by the White men who employed them. These Whites usually had no time (or desire) to learn even one of the African languages. (Each would

have required several years of study to master.) The new African labourers, for their part, could not always keep pace with English and Dutch (later Afrikaans).

### How it has spread

The use of Fanagalo spread in due course to domestic service and other spheres. Migrant labourers continued to take a knowledge of it back to their own territories, and today it is known from the Cape to Central Africa, and is gradually penetrating territories further afield. It is of course more readily understood among the Nguni tribes and nations – the Zulus, Swazi, Xhosas of the Eastern Cape, Shangaans and Tsongas of Mozambique, the Matabele of Zimbabwe and the Angoni of Malawi.

Fanagalo is also used inter-tribally: for instance, if a Venda wanted to communicate with a Pedi and neither of them knew the other's language they might (as often happened) communicate by speaking Fanagalo (or English). Similarly English or Afrikaans-speaking South Africans visiting Mozambique without knowing a word of Portuguese have been able to make themselves understood to Portuguese inhabitants through the *lingua franca* of Fanagalo.

### Courses in Fanagalo

Fanagalo is officially taught on gold, diamond, iron and coal mines to labourers who have been recruited from various territories. When they returned to their homes they naturally took back with them their knowledge of this so-called *lingua franca*.

Induction training for African workers through the medium of Fanagalo was introduced by the South African Iron and Steel Corporation (ISCOR), who also arranged for Fanagalo to be taught to their African instructors and a number of White personnel.

The Adult Education Bureau of the Pretoria Technical College conducted Fanagalo classes for the benefit of doctors, nurses, medical students, industrialist, hunters, housewives and others who wanted to learn the language at evening classes.

By means of *crash courses* at language laboratories on the gold mines, White miners and other skilled personnel have been taught Fanagalo in sessions totalling only 15 hours. This learning rate is fast, even for Fanagalo, the most easily mastered language in the world. The results seem to be excellent and the standard of proficiency attained is said to be high.

### Gestures

There are very few White men who could claim to understand the language of the Bushmen, which comprises a strange combination of clicks and other sounds, yet scientific expeditions to study the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert (organised mainly by the Witwatersrand University and the Chamber of Mines) have proved successful because the research workers have been able to communicate with the Bushmen with the aid of Fanagalo. On such occasions, of course, it is advisable



to supplement the spoken word with appropriate gestures: **in fact students of Fanagalo should never hesitate to make full use of gestures to reinforce the meaning they want to get across.**

## The meaning of Fanagalo

The appellation "Fanagalo" probably derives from "kuluma fana ga lo", meaning "speak like this", or "enza fana ga lo" ("do it like this"). The word "Fanagalo" is pronounced and stressed like the vowel sounds in "Father 'n law" and not like "a nag can go".

# 2 Pronunciation

## The Vowels

<b>A</b> as in FARM	e.g. MALI
<b>E</b> as in THERE	e.g. SEBENZA
<b>I</b> as in SARDINE	e.g. MINA
<b>O</b> as in BORDER	e.g. BONA
<b>U</b> as in JURY	e.g. MUTI

In each case the vowel printed in bold type is long and strong.

## Diphthongs

**AI** or **AY**: spoken like vowel sound in English word TIE.

**EY**: spoken like sound in THEY.

**AU**: rhymes with COW.

**OI**; **OY**: as in OIL, BOY.

**OU**: as in SOUL.

## The Consonants

The consonants in Fanagalo (with the exception of c, q and x) are all given the customary English sounds. But note that **g** is always "hard" like the **g** in **girl** and never "soft" like the **g** in **gentle**. In Fanagalo the soft **g** is replaced by **j**: thus magistrate becomes majistlet.

## The Clicks

The consonants c, q and x are pronounced as "clicks".

The **c click** is made by pressing the tip of the tongue against the back of the upper front teeth and withdrawing it with a quick sucking-in of air. It is actually a familiar sound in English, customarily expressing disappointment or sympathy, and usually spelt "tsk, tsk".

The **q click** is produced by pressing the tongue against the palate and drawing it away with a smack.

The **x click** is made by pressing the tongue against the teeth, which are slightly apart, and then withdrawing it on one side only, with a sucking-in of air. This is the sound that White children make when they imagine they are urging a horse to get moving.

If you find you can't manage the clicks, even after coaching, you can at a pinch use the letter k instead.

## Guttural g

Occasionally the Fanagalo rendering of Afrikaans words takes over the guttural "g". This guttural sound is represented by "gh", e.g. *sagha* (carpenter's saw). The gh sound is similar to the Scottish ch in *loch*.

**HL** has the sound of the Welsh **LL** in **LLANDUDNO**. It can also be pronounced as if spelt **shl**. Thus *muhle* may be spoken *mushle*, which is near enough to the correct sound for all practical purposes.

**M** or **N** at the beginning of a word, if followed by a consonant, are accorded full value as a syllable. In the original Nguni they were spelt **UM**, **IM** or **IN**, and should be given just as much stress. The Fanagalo word *Mlungu* is a contraction of *umlungu*, and *nkosi* was once *inkosi*.

**K** and **G**. In Zulu there is not always a clear distinction between **K** and **G**. Sometimes a **K** – as in "KA" – is spoken so softly as to sound like **G**; in such cases we simply use a **G** in Fanagalo for the sake of phonetic accuracy and consistency and write "FANAGALO" in preference to "FANAKALO". Otherwise **K** has the ordinary English sound.

Note: The spelling FANAKALO is used by the Chamber of Mines and ISCOR in their handbooks.

**R** is a regular letter in the Fanagalo alphabet. In some regions – particularly in Natal – it is often replaced by the sound **L**. Unlike the Zulus, who find it difficult to trill a good **R**, most other African tribes – notably the Basuto, Bechuana and Mashona – take the letter in their stride.

**Y** has the familiar English pronunciation, but its value is more variable. Thus we find many words in Fanagalo are spelt with or without a **Y**, e.g. *Yena*, *Ena*; *Yazi*, *Azi*; *Yinto*, *Into*; *Yilwa*, *Ilwa*.

## Stress

In Fanagalo the stress, or accentuation, usually falls on the penultimate syllable of the word. Here is an example, with the accentuated syllables in **bold type**: *Washa masandla gawena* (wash your hands). By the same token the final syllable in Fanagalo words, particularly those which have an Nguni origin, is usually weak and unaccentuated.

# 3 Grammar

## (a) Personal Pronouns

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
I, me..... mina	We, us ..... tina
You..... wena	you..... wenazonke; nina
he, she, it ..... yena	they, them... yenazonke.

"Him" and "her" are also "yena"; personal pronouns in Fanagalo remain the same, whether they are subjects of objects.

When "it" has the meaning of "a thing" the Fanagalo rendering is "lo into", "lo-nto" or *yenayinto*.

When "they" refers specifically to *two* things, the word "yenababili" could be used in preference to "yenazonke". Similarly "both of you" is "wenababili".

**(b) Possessive Pronouns** are formed by prefixing "ga", meaning "of", to the personal pronoun. Thus:

My, mine ..... gamina

and so on for the other personal pronouns.

If you *must* specify "he" or "she" as distinct from "him" or "it" for purposes of contrast or identification, use the following constructions:

*Her* or *she* ..... Yenakazi

*Him* or *he* ..... Yenadoda

### **(c) Verbs**

*Present Tense:* Present tense verbs end in "-a". Examples: hamba (go); puza (drink); kwela (climb); vala (close).

*Future Tense:* place "zo" before the verb to indicate futurity. Examples: Mina Zo hamba (I will go); tina zo puza (we will drink); yenazonke zo kwela (they will climb); wena zo vala lo festele (you will close the window).

*Past Tense:* In the past tense the -a ending of the verb is replaced by -ile. Examples: Mina hambile (I went); tina puzile (we drank); yenazonke kwelile (they climbed); wena valile lo festele (you closed the window).

*Present Passive:* Change the -a ending of the verb to -wa. Examples: Lo-mnyango ena vulwa (the door is being opened); Lo festele ena valwa (the window is being closed).

*Past Passive:* Change the -a ending of the verb to -iwe. Examples: Lo-mnyango ena vuliwe (the door has been opened); Lo festele ena valiwe (the window has been closed).

*To cause an action:* When it is necessary to indicate that a verb should convey the sense of projecting an action, or causing an action, the "-a" ending is changed to "-isa". Examples: Hambisa zinkomo (Drive - literally "cause to go" - the cattle); Ngenisa zingulube (bring in the pigs - literally "cause to enter"). Often this -isa construction becomes more familiar than the original form of the verb, as in "lungisa" (mend), derived from "lunga", to do right. From "pakama" (rise) we get "pakamisa" (lift).

From "pefumula" (breathe) we get "pefumulisa" (resuscitate, apply artificial respiration - literally, "cause to breathe").

This "-isa" construction can be used in the future tense as well as the present. For the past tense, alter "-isa" to "-isele". Hambisa (present tense) - Drive; Zo hambisa (future) - Shall drive; Hambisele (past) - Drove.

Examples: Mina lungisa lo moto – I mend the motor; Mina zo lungisa lo lori – I shall mend the lorry. Yena lungisele lo watch – He mended the clock; Yena shiyile lo motokali mina *tengisele* ku yena – He abandoned the car I *sold* him.

## Other Verb Forms

Here, summarised, are the basic tenses and some further constructions which may be employed to good effect:

I go.....	Mina hamba
I went .....	Mina hambile
I shall go.....	Mina zo hamba
I shall have gone.....	Mina zo hambile
I can go.....	Mina yazi hamba
I could have gone .....	Mina yazi hambile
You may go (permissive).....	Lungile wena hamba
I may go	}..... Mhlaumbe mina zo hamba
I might go	
Perhaps I shall go	
We are going now.....	Tina hamba manje
I want to go .....	Mina funa hamba
I would like to go .....	Mina zo tanda hamba
You should go .....	Muhle wena hamba
I am just about to go .....	Mina zo hamba konamanje
I shall go later on .....	Min zo hamba mbaimbai
He has only just gone .....	Yena hambile konamanje

The *Historic, or Narrative Present* (using the present tense for describing lengthy happenings from the past), may with advantage be used when relating stories in Fanagalo, just as it is used (frequently) in Afrikaans and (less frequently) in English.

## (d) Plurals

When a plural is required, the general rule is to prefix “ma-” to the Fanagalo word. E.g. foshol – shovel; mafoshol – shovels.

*Note:* Where the noun begins with m or n, followed by another consonant, there is sometimes a slight inflection in the forming of the plural, e.g. mbede (plural – mabede); mbele (plural – mabele); ndoda (plural – mado-da); ngolovan (plural – magolovan). These forms are easier to say than the uninflected forms would be – ma-mbede, ma-mbele, ma-ndoda and so on.

However, the great majority of nouns starting with m or n merely prefix ma in the plural, e.g. ngwenya (ma-ngwenya).

Nouns beginning with “i” or “n” sometimes take “z” for the plural. E.g. ingalo – arm; zingalo – arms; nkomo – cow; zinkomo – cows. The names of some animals and insects fall into the “z” category of plurals.

There are a few irregular plurals, such as Mlungu, Abelungu (White people); iliso, mehlo (eyes); mfazi, bafazi (women). Note that names of peoples and tribes frequently fall into the “ba-” class of plurals.

### (e) Interrogatives

A statement can be turned into a question by raising the tone of the voice, as is done in English. Thus you can make a statement to the effect that "Lo ingwe ena lumile lo mamekazi gamina" or you can ask "Lo ingwe ena lumile lo mamekazi gamina?" ("The leopard has bitten my maternal aunt?"). In addition a number of interrogatives, taken over in their original form from the Zulu, end in "i": Mangaki? (how many?); Utini? (what do you say?); Malini? (how much money?); Ipi? Upi? (where?); Bani? (who?); Gangani? (how?); Yiniskati? Ipiskati? (when?).

### (f) Other Grammatical Usages

#### GA

The possessive "of" is translated by "ga". E.g. the horns *of* the ox – Zipondo *ga* lo-nkabi. "Ga" or "nga" can also indicate "by means of", expressing the employment of an instrument, and the manner of doing something. E.g. hamba *ga* motokali – Go *by* car. Hamba *ga*-nyawo – Go *on* foot. Lo basi ena hamba *nga* lo petrol – The bus runs *on* petrol.

#### KU

"Ku", used after prepositions, denotes position or placing. Examples: Yena kona mabili zinyoni pezulu ku lo-ndlu – There are two birds on the roof of the house.

Hayikona yima muva ku lo hashi – Don't stand behind the horse.

"Pagati ku" – into. "Duze ku" – near. "Pambili ku" – in front of.

#### UPI

When not followed by a question mark, *upi* signifies *where*.

Examples:

This is the place where the money was lost. – Yena lo ndawo upi lo mali yena lahlegile.

I work in the office out of which the man came. – Mina sebenza lapa lo hofisi *upi* lo muntu yena pumile (*where* the man came out).

#### That – Ukuba

Ukuba – that; so that; because; in order that.

I want you to go – Mina funa ukuba wena hamba (I want **that** you go).

Tie the horse so that it doesn't run away – Bopa lo hashi ukuba yena hayi baleka.

#### By what means? – Ngani?

By what means did you kill the snake? – Ngani wena bulalile lo nyoka?

I killed it with (by means of) a shotgun – Mina bulalile yena ngalo simbamu.

**Which? What? – Ini?**

What does he want? – Ini yena funa?

Which sweets do you prefer? – Ini switi wena keta?

**Perhaps – Mhlaumbe**

Perhaps we will be able to fish later on. – Mhlaumbe tina azi doba mbaimbai.

**Either/or – Mhlaumbe/mhlaumbe**

I don't see the cow: either it is sick or has strayed. – Mina hayibona lo nkomo; mhlaumbe yena gula, mhlaumbe yena dukile.

**Until – Ukude; Kuze**

Stay here until the teacher returns. – Hlala lapa ukude lo tisha yena buya.

**Although; or – Noko**

I'll go although I'm tired. – Mina zo hamba noko mina diniwe.

The cat will eat fish or meat but not eggs. – Lo katsi azi idla lo ntlanzi noko lo nyama, kodwa hayikona ekis.

**If; If and When – Noko**

If the baby cries, comfort it. – Noko lo bebi yena kala, duduza yena.

**When – Loskati**

Get up when the sun rises. – Vuka loskati lo langa yena puma.

**So that; because – Kona**

Siza lo muntu kona yena pakamisa lo litye. – Help the man so that he may lift the stone.

Mina hamba lala manje kona mina gula. – I'm now going to lie down because I'm sick.

**Because – Ndaba**

The driver is cheerful because I found the spare part he had lost. – Lo draiva yena tokozile manje ndaba mina tolile lo sipere yena lahlegile.

**And, with – Na**

Give me the spanner and the crowbar. – Niga mina lo spanela na lo jimbrou.

The man went off with the woman and the girl as well. – Lo ndoda yena hambile na lo fazi na lo ntombi futi.

**Who, which – Yena**

Gives me the wireless set that has conked out – Niga mina lo wayiles yena file.

Where is the child who wants food – Upi lo pikanin yena funa skafu?

# 4 Numerals, Weekdays, Months

## NUMERALS

	<i>Fanagalo</i>	<i>Nguni</i>
1	wan .....	munye
2	tu .....	mabili
3	tri .....	matatu
4	fo .....	sine, or mane
5	fayif .....	hlanu
6	sikis .....	situpa
7	seven .....	sikombisa
8	eyit .....	eyit
9	nayin .....	nayin
10	ten .....	shumi
11	leven .....	shumi na munye
12	twelof .....	shumi na mabili
13	tetin .....	shumi na matutu
14	fotin .....	shumi na sine
15	fifitin .....	shumi na hlanu
20	twenti .....	mabili shumi
21	twenti-wan .....	mabili shumi na munye
30	teti .....	matatu shumi
40	foti .....	sine shumi
100	handred .....	kulu
105	handred-n-fayif .....	kulu na hlanu
200	tu handred .....	mabili kulu
1,000	tausend .....	kulungwan
1 m.	milyoni .....	milyoni

The original Nguni words for "eight" and "nine" have been omitted to avoid confusion, as there are various alternatives. With the exception of "munye" and "mabili", Nguni numerals are very seldom used in Fanagalo.

## ARITHMETIC

Subtract – susa. Multiply – andisa. Add – hlanganisa. Divide – ahluka. Correct (v) – lungisa. Half – haf.

## DAYS OF THE WEEK

<i>English</i>	<i>Fanagalo</i>	<i>Nguni</i>
Monday	Mandeyi	(Sombuluko, Mvulo)
Tuesday	Tiusdeyi	(Lwesibili)
Wednesday	Wensdayi	(Lwesitatu)
Thursday	Tersdeyi	(Lwesine)
Friday	Fraideyi	(Lwesihlanu)
Saturday	Setedeyi	(Mngibelo)
Sunday	Sandeyi	(Sonto)

The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th days of the week, as shown in brackets, are derived from Nguni numerals. *Mvulo* is a Xhosa word derived from *vula* (to open) – hence the day that opens the working week.

## MONTHS

**January** – Januwari  
**February** – Febuwari  
**March** – Matsh  
**April** – Epril  
**May** – Meyi  
**June** – Juni

**July** – Julayi  
**August** – Agosi  
**September** – Sebutemba  
**October** – Okitoba  
**November** – Novemba  
**December** – Disemba

# 5 Time and Place

## TIME

To tell the time prefix the phrase “skati ka” to the English numerals. E.g. Skati ka fo – 4 o’clock.

Morning (daybreak to noon) .....	kusasa; ekuseni
Midday, noon; daytime .....	emini, mini
Afternoon .....	mtambam
Evening .....	kusishwa, kusitwa
Twilight .....	uvivi
Night (sunset to sunrise) .....	busuku

Thus 3 p.m. is “skati ka tri mtambam” and 3:30 a.m. is “skati ka haf past tri busuku”.

This evening – kusishwa namhla. In the evening – skati kusishwa.

Tonight – ebusuku. In middle of night – pagati ka busuku.

Last night – lo busuku yena file; ezayo busuku; pezolo.

Today – namhla. Early (in the day) – kuseni.

Yesterday – izolo.

Tomorrow – ngomso; kusasa. (Note: *Kusasa* also means at dawn).

Day after tomorrow – ngomsomunye.

**Week** – Vek, Wik. Next week – lo wik yena figa. Last week – lo wik yena figile.

**Month** – Nyanga. Next month – lo nyanga yena figa. Last month – lo nyanga yena pelile. Moonrise – pumanyanga. Moonset – shonanyanga.

**Minute** – miniti; **Time** – skati; **Hour** – auwa, skati; **What’s the time** – Yini lo skati?; **Now** – manje; **When** – loskati; **When?** – ipi skati?; **At that time** – galesoskati; **Every time** – zonkeskat(i); **Future** – skati pambili; **In Desember** – Skati ka Disemba; **Year** – nyaka.



## PLACE NAMES

<b>Africa</b>	- Aflika, Afrika	<b>Kimberley</b>	- Ndayimani
<b>Bloemfontien</b>	- Mangaung	<b>Maputo</b>	- Maputo, Lolensomaki
<b>Cape Town</b>	- Khepi	<b>Port Elizabeth</b>	- Ibayi
<b>Drakensberg</b>	- Ukahlamba	<b>Pietermaristaburg</b>	- Umgungundlovu
<b>Durban</b>	- Tekweni	<b>Pietersburg</b>	- Polokwane
<b>East London</b>	- Istilondon	<b>South Africa</b>	- Sauwt Afrika
<b>Johannesburg</b>	- Goli, Igoli, Joni, Jozi		

## 6 Peoples and Countries

## PEOPLES

<b>Afrikaner</b>	- Bunu	<b>German</b>	- Jalimane
<b>Arab</b>	- Sulumane	<b>Greek</b>	- Geliki
<b>Basuto</b>	- Msutu	<b>Hottentot</b>	- Lau
<b>Bechuana</b>	- Mtswana	<b>Indian</b>	- Indiya
<b>Bushman</b>	- Busiman, Mutwa	<b>Italian</b>	- Ntaliyane
<b>Cape Coloured</b>	- Kalidi	<b>Jew</b>	- Juda
<b>Chinese</b>	- Shayina	<b>Pondo</b>	- Mpondo
<b>Englishman</b>	- Ngisi	<b>Portuguese</b>	- Potugezi
<b>Frenchman</b>	- Fulentshi	<b>Xhosa</b>	- Xosa

**Note:** To form plurals, prefix "Ma"; e.g. Mageliki, Malau. Exceptions: Besutu, Betswana, Amaswazi, Amaxhosa, Amazulu.

## COUNTRIES

Countries may be designated by prefixing "Kwa" or "Kw" to plural form, e.g. Kwamangisi (England), Kwamaindiya (India), Kwabetswana (Botswana), Kwabesutu (Lesotho), Kwamaswazi (Swaziland). Alternatively the official name may be used, especially if the country is in Africa, e.g. Malawi, Botswana.

For the benefit of readers not familiar with all the political changes in areas of South-Central Africa where Fanagalo might be used, here are some names that have been changed: Northern Rhodesia - now Zambia. Southern Rhodesia (later Rhodesia) - Zimbabwe. Bechuanaland - Botswana. Basutoland - Lesotho. Belgian Congo - Zaire. Nyasaland - Malawi. Tanganyika - Tanzania.

## LANGUAGES

Sotho - Sutu, Swazi - Siswati, Swati, Afrikaans - Sibunu, English - Singisi.

## 7 African Customs

*Gifts:* When you give something to a muntu and he takes it with both hands that is a sign of politeness, not of greed. Some women have a pretty habit of clapping their hands lightly before taking a gift. This, too, is a sign of politeness and respect.

Don't be in a *hurry* to "Bawl out" a muntu who remains seated when you address him. Take it calmly. In tribal life it is disrespectful for a man to *stand* when conferring with his chief. Thus it is not surprising if occasionally a man steeped in tribal traditions fails to get the hang of European etiquette.

When a muntu passes in front of you instead of passing behind you he is following an old custom.

A pamphlet, "Your Bantu Servant and You", issued by the Johannesburg Municipality, gives some hints on Bantu customs and ways of thought. For instance, the employer should be the first to greet the employee (it is good manners among the Bantu for a servant to remain silent until spoken to).

Give instructions clearly, concisely and positively. Give orders one at a time and make sure the employee understands what is required. He may think it polite to say "Yes" when he had not understood what you said.

White women should be modest in their dress when in view of male Bantu servants and should not expect them to wash or iron feminine underclothes. Children should be trained never to speak discourteously to servants.

In Bantu tribal society the structure of a family is somewhat different from that in White societies. For instance the grandmother occupies an important and respected position in a Bantu household. As uncles have almost the status of fathers, a man's cousins will rank as "brothers" and "sisters". So don't be startled if a servant who has asked for leave to attend the funeral of his "father" repeats the request a year or so later!

## 8 "Muntu" and "Bantu"

The designation of Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi and other tribesmen is "Bantu", which is the plural form of "Muntu". The word Muntu is derived from *Ntu*, meaning a person. Although the word Bantu is plural, it was often used in English or Afrikaans in the singular sense, e.g. "I saw a Bantu walking past", instead of "I saw a Muntu walking past." This term should be avoided when referring to Xhosas, Zulus, etc.

The use of the word "Native" to describe Bantu people is seldom heard today. When Whites first settled in South Africa over 300 years ago the only "natives" of the country they encountered were wandering Hotentots and Bushmen, who are different from Bantu. The appellation "blacks" is preferred today.

Abantsundu (literally "Brown People") is in Fanagalo a precise appellation for Bantu peoples. This term is usually shortened to "Bantu"

Whites in South Africa used to be called "Europeans", but this term has fallen into disuse. The Fanagalo name for Whites is Abelungu, plural of Mlungu.

## 9 Avoid negative questions

When you ask an African a question in English you should avoid, if possible, the phrase "Didn't". People who habitually speak English, when asked "Didn't you make coffee?" would reply "No, I didn't" or "Yes, I did". The African reaction, however, is to reply "Yes, I didn't" or "No, I did". Sometimes he might just answer "Yes" or "No", and if you don't listen to the rest of his explanation you might easily misunderstand his meaning. Rather put your questions directly: "Did you make the fire?" and give him the chance of answering an unambiguous "Yes" or "No". The same principle applies when you talk Fanagalo. Don't say: "Wena hayikona enzile lo-mlilo, na?" (Didn't you make the fire?); rather put it: "Wena enzile lo-mlilo, na?" (Did you make the fire?). And, generally speaking, it does not help you in your relations with African workers to fire long strings of rhetorical questions at them—as many people are apt to do when things have gone wrong. It is much better just to say outright that you don't like a thing done that way, and in future it should be done this way. The use of sarcasm should also be avoided. It misfires.

## 10 Letters and Telegrams

Letter-writing in Fanagalo presents no special problems. Abbreviations are rendered as follows:

Mr. — **Mna.** (derived from **Morena** and **Umunzana**).

Mrs. — **Mi.** (from **Umfazi**, **Mosadi** and **Mohumahadi**, which are the same form of address in different Bantu tongues).

The title "Sir" can also be rendered by "Mna."

You can start a letter with "Dumela!" (Greetings!) and possibly end with "Sala Gahle!"

Did you know that you may send telegrams in Fanagalo? They will be accepted and transmitted by the General Post Office in the Republic. The Author once, as a test, sent the following telegram which was accepted and duly delivered:

DUMELA LO POS HOFISI YENA TSHELA MINA LUNGILE ENZA LO FANAGALO LOSKATI WENA BALA LO TELEGEM.

(GREETINGS! THE POST OFFICE INFORMS ME THAT THE TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS WRITTEN IN FANAGALO IS PERMITTED).

## METRICATION

### Length

Metre – MITR (m)	centimetre – SENTIMITR (cm)
millimetre – MILIMITR (mm)	kilometre – KILOMITR (km)

### Velocity

kilometres per hour – KILOMITRS PER AUWA (km/h)

### Volume

litre – LITR (ℓ)	cubic metre – KIUBIK MITR (m <sup>3</sup> )
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### Mass

gram – GREM (g)	kilogram – KILOGREM (kg)
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## 11 Verses, prayers

### Verse composition

Here's how to compose verse in Fanagalo. You start off with something in English, preferably in iambic metre, with one or two Fanagalo words introduced to make the transition easy:

It's advisable to hamba  
 When you stumble on a mamba  
 For if you do not tshetsha  
 You'll expire on a stretcher.

This almost automatically becomes:  
 Muhle wena kona hamba  
 Skati wena bona mamba  
 Noko wena hayi tshetsha  
 Wena ifa lapa stretsha.

TSHWALA, MUHLE TSHWALA.

Tshwala, muhle tshwala  
 Puza futi, stelek muti  
 Puza baba, hayi saba  
 Tshwala, muhle tshwala.

(Although this verse was inspired by the old soldiers' song, "Beer, Glorious Beer", it should be mentioned that Bantu beer is quite different from European beer. Home-brewed Bantu beer, a traditional drink, has always played an important part in the religious and social life of the Bantu. Furthermore it has food value and contains vitamins. In the larger cities it is today factory-made and supplied at municipal beerhalls or in cartons sold through bottle stores. The mines brew their own Bantu beer as part of the rations for their Bantu labourers.)

## SHAKESPEARE

Let's take a look next at a famous verse from Shakespeare . . .

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,  
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,  
 To the last syllable of recorded time;  
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
 Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,  
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
 And then is heard no more.

. . . and its rendering in Fanagalo:

Kusasa, na kusasa, na kusasa,  
 Zintsuku zonke hambake gantsani,  
 Galesoskati, skati zo pelile;  
 Mazolo kanyisile masituta  
 Lapa ndlela file. Cima, kandlela!  
 Tina fana na mtunzi yena  
 Hamba; mbongo yena kala munye  
 Ntsuku, mbaimbai tulisa.

LO GAMU TWENTI-TRI  
 (The 23rd Psalm)

Umalusi gamina! Nkulunkulu!  
 Mina zo hayi funa luto,  
 Wena lalisa mina lapa lo tshani luhlaza,  
 Wena bonisa mina lo puzamanzi,  
 Wena pilisa lo moya gamina.

\* \* \*

Wena hamba pambili lapa lo-ndlela lungile,  
 Yebo, kodwa mina hamba lapa lo-mtunzi minyama  
 Mina hayi saba lo bubi;  
 Lo-nduku gawena siza mina.

\* \* \*

Wena deka lo taful; wena kudlisa mina  
 Loskati abazondi yena buka.  
 Lo komitshi gamina yena gwele.  
 Mpela, lo kulungile na lo tando  
 Hamba na mina zonke ntsuku;  
 Futi, mina zo hlala zonkeskat  
 Pagati ku lo-ndlu ga lo-Nkulunkulu.

**TANDAZO**

(The Lord's Prayer)

Baba gatina, Wena kona pezulu,  
 Tina bonga lo Gama gawena;  
 Tina vuma lo mteto gawena  
 Lapa mhlaba, fana na pezulu.  
 Niga tina namuhla lo zinkwa yena izwasisa;  
 Futi, yekelela masono gatina,  
 Loskati tina yekelela masono ga lomunye.  
 Hayi letisa tina lapa lo cala;  
 Kodwa, sindisa tina ku lo bubi,  
 Ndaba Wena kona lo-mteto, lo mandla, na lo dumela,  
 Zonkeskat. Amen.

## 12 Greetings, weather, seasons

### Greetings

Good day! – Sakubona! Sawubona!

How goes it? – Kanjani?

All right – Kulungile.

Goodbye! (Go well!) – Hamba gahle!

Goodbye! (Stay well!) – Sala gahle!

Goodbye everybody! – Salani gahle!

How's your wife? – Kanjani lo-mfazi gawena?

She's well now – Yena pilile manje.

When did you arrive? – Ipiskati wena figile?

At 7.30 this morning – Skati ka haf pas seven ekuseni.

Don't speak so quickly. I don't understand you very well – Hayikona kuluma tsetsha. Mina hayi qonda muhle.

Sorry, I'll speak slowly now – Sori, manje mina zo kaluma gahle.

Is it cold in Johannesburg? – Yena kona makaza lapa Jozi, na?

Yes, freezing – Yebo, makaza stelek!

I think there will be rain today – Mina kabanga lo mvula yena zo figa namuhla.

Oh yes, the wind is blowing strongly and I see plenty of clouds – Ehe, lo moya yena pepeta stelek. Mina bona maningi mafu.

I'm afraid of lightning and thunder – Mina saba lo mbane la lo duma.

### Weather

From the cloud (ifu) or clouds (mafu) may come shade (mtunzi), lightning (mbane), thunder (duma), rain (mvula) or hailstones (matshe ga lo zulu). From the wet (manzi) earth (mhlaba) the rainwater (mvulamanzu) will evaporate, forming mist (nkungu). If the wind (moya) is sufficiently cold (makaza) it may snow (kitika), but eventually the sun (langa) will bring the rainbow (tingo ga nkosikas) and at night the moon (nyanga)

and stars (makanyezi) will shine (kanyisa). Eventually it will become hot (tshisa) and dry (omile).

Two important nouns connected with the weather are *zulu*, which can mean heaven, sky or weather, and *moya*, which represents wind or air. Reverting to the fanciful name for a rainbow, “Tingo ga nkosikas” it is not clear whether this means a lady’s bower (rainbow shaped), or a lady’s pitcher (from which the water has been emptied in the form of rain). Either way it is a pretty thought.

## THE SEASONS

**Spring** – Ntlokohlaza,  
Ntwasahlobo.  
**Summer** – Hlobo  
**Autumn** – Kwindla  
**Winter** – Busika

## COMPASS POINTS

**North** – Nyakato; Node  
**South** – Ningizimu; Sauwt  
**East** – Pumalanga  
**West** – Shonalanga

**Note:** The ensuing sections on the Human Body, Medical Phrases, Health and Hygiene, First Aid, and Accidents and Casualties are of particular interest to Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers, Medical Auxiliaries (such as Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists) and employers of labour.

# 13 The human body

This section may be read in conjunction with the chapters “Medical” and “Health and Hygiene”.

Some of the more familiar parts of the body are:

**ankle** – qakala  
**anus** – golo  
**arm** – ingalo  
**armpit** – kwapa  
**artery** – mtambo (ga lo bomvu gazi)  
**back** – mhlane  
**buttocks** – singqe  
**calf** – sito  
**cheek** – sihlati  
**chest** – sifubu  
**chin** – silevu  
**collarbone** – nqosha, nbu inqwababa  
**colon** – nyonkolo  
**ear** – ndlebe  
**elbow** – ndolowane; noneba  
**eye** – iliso, ihlo  
**eyes** – mehlo

**backbone** – mhlandla  
**bile, gall** – nyongo  
**body** – mzimba  
**bone** – tambo  
**bowel, intestine** – tumbu (pl. matumbu)  
**brain** – bukopa  
**breasts** – mabele  
**leg** – mlenze  
**lung** – mpungu; papu  
**marrow** – mkantsha  
**moustache** – devu  
**mouth** – mlomo  
**muscle** – msipa  
**nail** – zipo  
**neck** – ntamo  
**nerve** – muzwa  
**nipple** – ngono  
**nose** – mpumlo

<b>face</b> – buso	<b>pelvis</b> – mhlese
<b>finger</b> – munwe	<b>penis</b> – mtondo
<b>small finger</b> – pikanin munwe	<b>pulse</b> – gazi shaya lapa lo mtambo
<b>fist</b> – bakela	<b>rib</b> – ubambo
<b>foot</b> – nyawo	<b>shoulder</b> – hlombe
<b>forehead</b> – pongo, bunzi	<b>shoulder blade</b> – panga
<b>gland</b> – ndlala	<b>skin</b> – skumba
<b>groin</b> – mbilapa	<b>stomach, abdomen</b> – sisu
<b>gullet</b> – minzo	<b>teat (breast)</b> – mbele
<b>gums</b> – masini	<b>testicles</b> – masende
<b>hair</b> – nwele	<b>thigh</b> – tanga
<b>hand</b> – sandla	<b>throat</b> – mpimbo
<b>head</b> – skop, kanda, ntloko	<b>thumb</b> – situpa
<b>heart</b> – intliziyo, hliziyo	<b>toe</b> – zwane
<b>heel</b> – sitende	<b>toenail</b> – zipo
<b>hip</b> – nyonga	<b>tongue</b> – limi
<b>hip bone</b> – nqulu	<b>tooth</b> – zinyo
<b>jaw</b> – mhlati	<b>vein</b> – mtambo ga lo bluwan gazi
<b>kidney</b> – inso	<b>wrist</b> – sihlakala
<b>knee</b> – dolo	
<b>lip</b> – debe	
<b>liver</b> – sibindi	

## 14 Medical

I am ill, master – Mina gula, nkos (or Mina yifa).

Here, drink this medicine – Ina, puza lo muti.

My chest is sore – Lo sifuba gamina yena buhlungu.

The dog eats the grass because it is ill – Loinja yena idla lo tshani ndaba yena gula.

The old person is complaining all the time – Lo madala yena kala zonkeskat.

I shall relieve the pain – Mina zo tulisa lo buhlungu.

Your knee is fractured – Lo dolo gawena yena pugile.

Why did you not drink the medicine I gave you? – Yinindaba wena hayi-kona puzile lo muti mina nigile wena?

Heavens! I thought you told me to rub it on my leg – Hau! Mina kaban-ga wena tshelile mina, sinda yena lapa lo-mlenze.

I sweat a lot every night and my head is hot – Mina juluka stelek zonke busuku loskati lo-ntloko gamina ena tshisa.

I can see perspiration on your face now – Mina bona lo mjuluko lapa lo buso gawena manje.

When you wake in the morning is there a bitter taste in your mouth? – Loskati wena vuka ekuseni lo-mlomo gawena yena babayo, na?

When you get another fever attack tell me and I will give you daraprim – Noko lo-ntloko gawena ena tshisa munyeskat, tshela mina; mina zo niga wena lo dereprim muti.



When did the affliction first give trouble? – Ipiskati lo buhlungu yena hlupekile kuqala?

The medicine will kill your intestinal worms – Lo muti zo bulala izilo (wena bonile loskati wena boshile).

I can't go to the latrine regularly; give me some Epsom salts – Mina hayiyazi bosha zonkeskat; niga mina lo sawuti.

We have an x-ray machine which can see into your body and take a photograph of the abscess – Tina kona lo mtshini, lo eksreyiz, yena bona muhle pagati ku lo-mzimba gawena. Yena enza mfanekiso ga lo tumba.

You won't feel the operation. A doctor will give you anaesthetic, and another doctor will remove the septic part. Finally the doctor will suture the place neatly, and bandage your body. When you are better you will be glad – Wena zo hayikona izwa lo hlinza. Lo dokotela zo faga lo moya yena lalisa. Lomunye dokotela zo kipa lo tumba. Kuqedile lo dokotela zo tunga muhle lo-ndawo. Yena zo bopa lo-mzimba gawena ga lo bendej. Loskati wena betela wena zo jabula.

\* \* \*

How are you today? – Kanjani namuhla?

Where is the pain? – Ipi buhlungu?

Don't be afraid; I won't hurt you – Hayikona saba; mina hayiyazi limaza wena.

Come closer: I want to examine your eyes – Sondela; mina funa bona mehlo gawena.

Shut your eyes now – Cima mehlo manje.

I cannot sleep properly because I cough every night – Mina hayiyazi lala muhle ndaba mina kohlela zonke busuku.

The doctor is angry because you went away – Lo dokotela ena kwata ndaba wena hambile.

You are shivering. Are you cold? – Wena tutumela. Wena kona makaza, na?

I am very sick – Mina gula kakulu.

My wife needs medicine – Lo-mfazi gamina ena funa muti.

Take this medicine in the evening regularly when you go to bed – Puza lo muti zonkeskat loskati wena hamba lala ebusuku.

If you come back when the bottle is empty I will give you some new medicine – Noko wena buya loskati lo bodlela yena pelile mina zo niga wena lo nyuwan muti.

\* \* \*

## SOME USEFUL PHRASES

acute pain – buhlungu stelek

anaesthetic – moya yena lalisa

bedpan – ndishi ga lo bosh

boil, abscess – tumba

constipated – hayikona bosha

deaf – andiva

deaf person – situtu  
 defecate – boshu  
 dentist – dokotela ga mazinyo  
 emetic – muti ga hlanza  
 exhale – pumisa mpefumulo  
 eye drops – muti ga mehlo  
 eye surgeon – dokotela ga mehlo  
 give artificial respiration – pefumulisa  
 gonorrhoea – jovela (vuza ga lo mtondo)  
 head cold – mkuhlane ga skop  
 infect – sulela lo gufa  
 infectious, contagious – ukusulela  
 inhale – donsa mpefumulo  
 itch – nwaya  
 neuritis, neuralgia – buhlungu ga muzwa  
 operate – hlinza  
 phlegm – isikohlela  
 prescription – ncwadi ga muti  
 pulse – gazi shaya lapa lo ntambo  
 sick, suffering – sik, gula  
 spittle – mate  
 syphilis – spatsholo (gufa ga fazi)  
 urinate – tunda, shobinga  
 urine – mshobingo  
 veterinary surgeon – dokotela ga silwane  
 well (healthy) – pila muhle

## 15 Health and Hygiene

Don't spit – Hayikkona pimisa. Hayikona pumisa mate.  
 Go and wash your body – Hamba geza lo-mzimba gawena.  
 Sweep your room every day – Tshanyela lo kaya gawena zonke ntsuku.  
 If you eat only bread you will in time become ill. You should eat vegetables every day – Noko wena idla lo sinkwa kupela wena zo gula mbaimbai. Yidla zonke ntsuku mavejetebel.  
 Don't eat underdone pork – Loskati wena yidla lo-nayma ga longulube, pega yena stelek kuqala.  
 If you don't open your window at night the carbon monoxide from your coal brazier will kill you – Noko wena hayikona vula lo festele ebususku loskelem smoko ga lo tshisa malahle zo bulala wena.  
 Milk the cows, but first wash your hands – Senga zinkomo, kodwa geza masandla gawena kuqala.  
 Use the insecticide in your hut in this manner; it will kill flies and mosquitoes and bugs, in fact all insects – Faga lo muti pagati ku lo kaya gawena, fana ga lo; yena zo bulala zimpukane, na zinsune, na zimbungulu (mazondo). Zonke silwanekazane ena zo yifa.

If you drink illicit brew you will get ill. – Noko wena puza lo skokian na lo qediviki wena zo gula.

Your baby's eyes are dirty: I shall put some drops in them – Mehlo ga lo bebi gawena yena doti: mina zo faga mbitshan muti.

Thank you very much, master – Nkos! Bonga kakulu.

The river water is unclean; leave it alone and drink tap water – Lo manzi lapa lo-mfula yena doti; yeka yena; puza lo manzi ga lo tep.

You must not urinate in the river. Go to the latrine every time – Hayikona wena tunda lapa lo mfula. Hamba zonkeskat lapa lo boshi.

If you get medicine from the witchdoctor you may get better or you may die. But when you take the doctor's medicine you will be glad because it relieves and cures you – Noko wena tola lo muti ga lo-nyanga mhlaumbe wena betela, mhlaumbe wena yifa. Kodwa, loskati wena tata lo muti ga lo dokotela, lo-mlungu, wena zo jabula, ndaba yena tulisa na pilisa.

Do you smoke dagga? – Wena bema lo-insangu (lo dagha), na?

No sir, I use tobacco only – Cha, bas, mina bema lo gwaiyi kupela.

Relax your body – Yeka mzimba.

## 16 Accidents and casualties

What goes on here? What is it? – Yinindaba? Yintoni?

There has been a big smash – Yena kona lo makulu smesh.

The motor car struck the bridge and overturned – Lo motokali ena shayile lo bologhwe; eyna wile.

One White man is dead; another has a broken arm, and a baby is bleeding from the mouth and ears – Lo-mlungu ena file; lomunye yena pugile lo-ngalo gayena; lo bebi yena puma lo gazi lapa lo-mlomo na zindlebe.

Can I help you? – Mina yazi siza wena, na?

Hurry to that house nearby; tell them we want a doctor – Hamba tsetsha ku lo-ndlu lapa duze; tshela yena tina funa lo dokotela.

I think there is perhaps another white man underneath the motor car.

There! See his hand – Mina kabanga mhlaumbe yena kona ndoda lomunye pantsi ku lo motokali. Nanku! Bona lo sandla gayena.

Bring together a lot of men; tell them I want to lift the car – Butela manin-gi bantu; tshela yena mina funa pakamisa lo motokali.

The car is very heavy; take out the baggage – Lo motokali ena nzima kakulu: kipa lo-mpahle.

Mind the petrol leaking out. Tell that man not to smoke close to the car – Basopa lo petrol ena vuza. Tshela lo muntu lapa sayid hayimuhle yena bema duze ku lo motokali.

A heavy stone fell on my foot – Lo litye nzima yena wile lapa lo nyawo gamina.

The bandage is red: the knee is bleeding continually – Lo bendej yena bomvu: lo dolo yena puma lo gazi zonkeskat.

Lie down now. Later on you will be better – Lala pantsi manje; baimbai wena zo betele.

The child was bitten by a dog – Loinja yena lumile lo-mtwana.

Call the ambulance by telephone – Biza lo ambulans nga lo telefomo.

The ambulance has arrived – Lo ambulens yena figile.

## First Aid

Do you know first aid? – Wena azi lo festeyid, na?

Oh yes, I learned it when I worked on a mine – Yebo, mina fundile yena lapa lo mayin.

Help me to lift this man onto the stretcher; he has been gassed (overcome by fumes) – Siza pakamisa lo-ndoda lapa ku lo stretsha; yena dagiwe nga lo smok.

I will apply the bandage but bring me a scissors and safety pin first – Mina azi fasa lo bendej, kodwa leta kuqala lo skele na lo spenet. We gave him artificial respiration – Tina pefumulisele yena.

This man has been electrocuted on the roof of the house – Lo ges lapa pezulu ku lo-ndlu, yena bambile lo muntu.

Drowned – Shonile ku lo manzi. Electric shock – banjiwe ga lo ges. First aid dressings – bendej ga lo-ngozi.

# 17 Sports and recreations

## Fishing

Where is the dam? Are there fish in it? – Upi lo dam? Yena kona ntlanzi lapa pagati?

Yes sir. Men catch many a fish there – Yebo nkos. Madoda yena bamba maningi ntlanzi lapa.

I want some worms now – Mina funa misundu manje.

Where is the farm house? – Upi lo ndlu ga lo plas?

Must we ask permission to fish in the river? – Loskati tina funa doba lapa lo-mfula, tina zo buza lo-mlungu, na?

You cannot go by car to the dam; there's only a footpath – Wena hayiyazi hamba ga lo motokali lapa ku lo dam. Yena kona lo-ndlela ganyawo kupela.

## Football

Pay attention when the referee blows his whistle – Izwa loskati lo referi ena shaya lo-mfingwan.

Kick the ball into the goal – Kahlela lo bol pagati ku lo goal.

Now head the ball – Manje shaya lo bol nga lo skop gawena.

Stand on the line; raise the ball above your head with both hands and throw it in – Yima lapa lo layin; pakamisa lo bol pezulu ku lo skop; ponsa yena nga mabili masandla.

Football boots – Makokis. Jersey – Jezi. Football togs – Gear. Kick kaba, kahlala.

## Golf

Have you caddied before? I don't want a useless boy – Wena azi lo golof? Mina hayifuna lo mampara mfan.

Yes, sir, I am a good caddie – Yebo nkos, mina festklas kedi.

What is your name? – Bani lo gama gawena?

Take my bag of clubs – Tata lo saka gamina.

Keep your eye on the ball; see that you don't lose it – Buka muhle lo bol gamina; basopa wena hayikona lahlega yena.

These balls are dirty; clean them with water – Tata mabol, yena doti; susa yena nga lo manzi.

You must be quiet when my partner plays a shot – Muhle wena tula loskati lo-mlungu ena beta lo bol.

Be quiet – Tula!

I don't want this iron; give me my wood – Mina hayifuna lo-ntsimbi niga mina lo-nkuni.

Is my ball lying close to the pin? – Lo bol gamina yena duze ku lo pin?

No, it was a bad shot and it's in a bunker – Cha! Yena posa; ena kona lapa lo santi (lo banka).

Take out the pin – Kipa! ("Pumisa lo pin").

Let go the pin – Yeka lo pin.

Did the ball drop into the water? – Lo bol ena iwile lapa lo manzi, na?

Did it bounce this side the river? – Yena shayile nganeno lo-mfula?

Give me my number 4 iron – Niga mina lo-ntsimbi nomba fo.

That old ball is not mine; I am playing a brand new one – Lo madala bol ena hayikona lo bol gamina; mina kona lo nyuwan mhlope stelek.

Did my ball run into the bunker? – Lo bol gamina yena hambile pansu ku lo-mgodi ga lo santi?

How many balls are there on the green? – Mangaki mabol ena kona lapa lo grin?

I can see only one – Mina bona munye kupela.

Move your shadow. Don't rattle the bag – Susa lo-mtunzi gawena. Hayikona shukumisa lo saka.

Do you smoke? Have you matches? – Wena funa gwaiyi? Wena kona metshs?

Please carry my clubs to the car. Here's an extra tip. – Muhle wena tata lo saka lapa lo motokali. Ina lo futi mali.

Fairway – tshani fushane. Rough – tshani mude.

## Hunting and Game Reserves

What have you loaded onto the lorry? – Yini lo mpahle wena layishile lapa lo lori?

I have just checked the load. Lamps, torches, rifle, shotgun, canvas, food, beer, brandy and drinking water – Mina bonile lo mtwalo: malampu, matotsh, lo rayifl, lo shatgan, lo seyil, lo skaf, lo tshwala, lo brendi na lo puzamanzi.

- We will stop here under the big tree where there is plenty of shade – Tina  
zo yima lapa lo makulu mti, yena kona maningi mtunzi.
- Why don't we camp near the river? – Yinindaba tina hayi hlala duze ku  
lo mfula?
- Because the mosquitoes will eat us alive. What's more, I'm afraid of  
crocodiles – Ndaba masune yena zo luma tina stelek. Futi, mina saba  
mangwenya.
- The dog is pointing – Lo inja yena komba.
- He smells the buck – Yena nuka lo nyamazan.
- Give me my gun – Miga mina lo sibamu gamina.
- Have you brought the big knife? – Wena figisile lo makulu mes, na?
- Yes sir, here it is – Yebo nkos, ina.
- Look out for the teeth of the crocodile: they are very dirty and if you  
get scratched the place will become septic – Basopo mazinyo ga  
lo-ngwenyana: yena maningi doti; futi, noko yena limaza wena, lo-  
ndawo yena zo bolile.
- Why are the buck fleeing and the birds twittering? – Yinindaba zonke  
lo nyamazan yena baleka, na zinyoni yena kala?
- Perhaps it is a lion. No, I see now, the grass is on fire! – Mhlaumbe yena  
kona lo-ngonyama. Hayi, mina bona manje . . . lo tshani yena baswa!
- Who has stolen the venison? – Ubani yena tshontshile lo nyamazan?
- I don't know sir; perhaps a dog – Mina hayi azi, nkos; mhlaumbe lo inja.
- The goat in the kraal has been killed by lions – Mangonyama yena bula-  
lile lo-mbuzi lapa lo-mzi.
- Pacify the horses: they are terribly afraid – Tulisa mahashi: yena saba  
stelek.
- Run to the car and alert the men there – Gijima lapa lo motokali; vukisa  
zonke madoda lapa.
- We are allowed to shoot these; they are vermin – Lungile tina bulala  
yena; yenzonke silwanyana.
- The leopard has been trapped – Lo ingwe yena tiyile.
- If you go to the big water hole at dawn you'll see lots of buck – Noko  
wena hamba skati pumalanga lapa lo makulu mgodi ena kona manzi,  
wena zo buka maningi nyamazan.
- Is the water hole far? – Lo mgodimanzi yena kashane?
- No, it is very near – Hayi, yena duze kakulu.
- Where can I buy a wild cat kaross? – Upi mina azi tenga lo paka karos?
- The white trader has many of them – Lo-mlungu ga lo stolo yena kona  
maningi.
- These are useless: some are too old, some too hard, others are  
ugly – Yena mampara: lomunye yena madala, lo-munye lukuni,  
lomunye yena mubi.
- I want a little kaross, but nice and soft – Mina funa lo pikanin karos,  
kodwa muhle, tambile.
- That one is pretty. Ask the man how much he wants for it – Lo karos  
lapa yena muhle. Buza lo muntu malini.

*Finally a few more handy terms:*

baboon – mfene  
 buffalo – inyati  
 bullet – hlamvu  
 bushbuck – imbabala  
 camp – kambu  
 dassie – mbira  
 duiker – impunzi  
 eagle – kozi  
 eland – mpofu  
 elephant – ndlovu

fauna – silwane  
 giraffe – dlulamiti  
 guinea fowl – mpangele  
 hippopotamus – imvubu  
 leopard – ingwe  
 mongoose, meercat – mbira  
 monkey – inkawu  
 rhinoceros – bejane  
 springbok – nsepe  
 tent – tende

## Other Sports

Running – Gijima. High jump – Jampa pezulu. Putting the shot – jugujela lo shatput. Wrestle – bambana. Mile – mayile, To judge, decide, settle or give a ruling “gweba”.

“Get a move on!” – “Faga lo stim (or, petrol)!”

For other athletic events, and for cricket and tennis, English terms are normally used.

# 18 Travel

Where is the main road? – Upi lo makulu mgwagwa?

Continue straight ahead. When you get close to the shop, turn right.

The main road will be five kilometres further on – Hamba pambili. Loskati went duze ku lo venkile, jiga lapa raiyitsayid. Lo makulu mgwagwa yena fayif kilomitr futi.

Please give me a lift – Muhle wena kwelisa mina.

Where can I get petrol? – Upi mina azi tola lo petrol?

There's no petrol; the garage is shut – Aiziko lo petrol; lo garaj yena valiwe.

When will the garage reopen? – Ipiskati lo garaj yena vula futi?

The day after tomorrow – Ngomsomunye.

I have a can of petrol, but only five litres – Mina kona lo tin ga lo petrol, kodwa fayif litr kupela.

Is the town near? – Lo dolopu yena duze, na?

Never! It's very far. About 20 minutes drive, I estimate – Hayikona! Yena kashane stelek. Mina kabanga wena shayela twenti miniti.

When does the train leave? – Ipiskati lo stimela yena zo hamba?

At 7-50 pm – Skati ka seven-fifti busuku.

We shall go to Durban by car tomorrow – Tina zo hamba nga lo motokali lapa Tekweni ngomso.

At what time will we get to Pietermaritzburg? – Ipiskati tina zo figa lapa Umgungundlovu?

We will get to the town at sunset – Tina zo figa lapa lo dolopu shonalanga.

The road is good ahead – Lo mgwagwa (ndlela) ena lungile pambili.

The road is bad further on – Lo mgwagwa ena mubi baimbai.

We are tired now. We want to eat because we are hungry – Tini diniwe manje. Tina funa idla ndaba tina lambile.

We want to drink tea at an hotel – Tina funa puza lo ti lapa lo hotel.

We will bathe in the sea while the children play on the beach – Tina zo dada ku lwandle loskati bantwana ena dlala lapa lo santi.

We shall return home next week – Tina zo buya lapa kaya ga lo vek ezayo.

*Crossing a River – Wela.*

Show me the way to the river – Bonisa mina lo-ndlela yena hamba lapa ku lo-mfula.

Is there a bridge across the river? – Yena kona lo bologhwe lapa lo-mfula, na?

Is there a drift? – Yena kona lo delef?

Is the water very high? – Yena kona maningi manzi?

Can I ford the river by car? – Mina yazi wela nga lo motokali?

Will the car perhaps get stuck in the drift? – Lo manzi yena zo bamba lo motokali mhlaumbe?

## 19 Traffic

### *Motor Vehicles*

Watch your rear-view mirror; another car may be wanting to overtake you – Buka lo sibuko; mhlaumbe lo munye futi motokali ena funa dlula.

Don't drive in there; the road is closed – Hayikona ngena lapa; lo mgwagwa yena valiwe.

It's O.K. to drive on the right side of the street here; it's a one-way street – Kulungile wena shayela lapa rayit-sayid; yena lo munye komba stalidi.

Unload here. Jim and Solomon will help you – Kipa mpahle lapa. Lo Jim na lo Solomon zo siza wena.

Look out for pedestrians; children will soon be crossing. I heard the school bell ringing – Basopa mahambi-ganyawo; bantwana zo wela konamanje. Mina izwile lo nsimbi ga lo skul.

Don't park here in front of the gate; there are cars wanting to come out – Hayikona yima lapa pambili ku lo geyit; mamoto yena funa puma.

Where is your windscreen wiper? – Upi yinto yeno sula lo glas?

No hooting is permitted at night – Hayikona shaya lo huta ebusuku.

No parking – Hayikona yima lapa.

Parking one hour – Yima munye auwa kupela.

"Motor vehicles only" – Mamoto kupela.

Motor cycle – Stitutut. Lorries – malori. Slow – gantsani.

Silencer – Yinto yena tulisa.



*Bicycles*

If you ride your bicycle on the sidewalk the traffic officer will catch you – Noko wena gibela lo baisikil lapa lo ndlela ganyawo lo speketela zo bamba wena.

Repair the brakes today – Lungisa mabrik namhla.

The red reflector is lost – Lo glas bomvu emva ena lahlegile.

*Pedestrians*

Use the marked crosswalk – Wela lapa ku baliwe.

Don't walk in the middle of the road – Hayikona hamba pagati ku lo-mgwagwa.

Don't obstruct the inspector – Hayikona hlupa lo speketela.

*Traffic terms*

"No herded animals" – Hayikona hambisa silwane lapa.

Your lights are out – Malampu gawena ena file.

"Robot ahead" – Stoplayit pambile.

"No entry" – Hayikona ngena.

Keep to the left – Hamba lapa left-sayid kupela.

No right turn – Hayikoa jiga lapa rayit-sayid.

Tail light – Lampu ga-msila; staplayit.

"Road Closed" – Mgwagwa valiwe.

"Cul-de-sac" – Stalidi pela pambili.

"Dead Slow" – "Gantsani Kakulu".

"One way street" – Munye komba stalidi.

## 20 Engaging labour

Good day! – Sakubona! (or "Molo!").

What is your name? – Bani lo gama gawena?

To what tribe do you belong? – Yini lo-mhlobo gawena?

Can you speak Afrikaans? – Wena azi kuluma lo Sibunu?

Can you speak English? – Wena azi kuluma lo Singisi?

No, I can only speak Fanagalo? – Cha, mina kuluma Fanagalo kupela.

What sort of work can you do? – Yini lo-msebenzi wena azi?

I know housework – Mina yazi lo-msebenzi ga lo-ndlu.

I don't want a loafer – Mina hayifuna lo lova.

Where is your identity book? – Ipi lo situpa gawena?

How much money do you want? – (Wena funa) malini?

I will also give you free food and quarters – Mina zo niga wena lo kaya na lo skafu futi.

That's all right – Kulungile.

You can move your baggage in this afternoon – Lungile wena ngenisa lo-mpahle gawena mtambam.

What do you want? – Ufunani wena?

I want work – Mina funa lo-msebenzi.

Do you want food? – Wena funa lo skafu, na?

Come back tomorrow and I will pay you – Buya lapa ngomso; mina zo batala wena.

Who is there? – Bani lo?

Who is this man? Where does he come from? – Bani lo muntu? Upi ena figa?

How old are you? – Mangaki nyaka gawena?

I shall start work next month – Mina zo qala msebenzi ga lo-nyango ezayo.

When did you arrive here? – Ipiskati wena figile lapa?

When will you start work? – Ipiskati wena zo qala lo-msebenzi?

Why did you not come yesterday? – Yinindaba wena hayikona figile izolo?

Where have you been? – Ipi wena hambile?

When will you come back? – Ipiskati wena zo buya?

Where is the man who worked in the garden? – Upi lo ndoda ena sebenzile lapa lo gadin?

Wait a bit – Gahle mbitshan.

## 21 Domestic service

When the washerwoman arrives give her soap and show her the laundry – Loskati lo washgel yena figa, niga yena lo ntsepu; bonisa yena lo kamela ga lo geza.

My grandmother is dead; I must go to her funeral tomorrow – Lo mamekula gamina yena file. Mina funa hamba lapa lo ncwabo ngomso.

All right. Be sure to return the following day – Kulungile. Buya myanis ngomsomunye.

Close all the windows when it rains – Vala zonke mafestele loskati lo kamkam yena figa.

Heavens! What's this mess on the new carpet? – Hau! Yini lo mosha lapa lo nyuwan kapet?

It must have been a dog. The bitch and her puppies go everywhere – Mina kabanga yena loinja. Lo injakazi na zonke lo pikanininja hamba zonke ndawo.

Why don't you keep them out? – Yinindaba wena hayikona vimbela yena? Don't blame me. The backdoor doesn't close properly and the dog pushes it open – Hayi lo-ndaba gamina. No nyango emva hayi funa vala muhle. Loinja azi shova yena.

Very well, then. I shall ask the master once more please to mend it – Kulungile, mina zo buza futi lo bas, muhle yena lungisa lo nyango.

Go and fetch wood – Hamba tata lo-nkuni.

Put coal in the stove – Faga malahle lapa lo stofu.

Kindle the fire at 6.30 a.m. – Basa lo-mlilo skati ka sikis teti ekuseni.

Boil the water – Bilisa lo manzi.

The water is boiling now – Lo manzi ena bila manje.

Very well then, make tea – Lungile, enza lo ti.

Put the teapot on the tray – Bega lo tipoti lapa lo treyi.

Wait here: sit down – Linda lapa: hlala pantsi.

Stand up – Yima. Lie down – Lala pantsi. Go and sleep – Hamba lala.

Wake up! – Vuka! Enter! – Ngena! Go outside! – Puma! Be off with you! – Suka!

Put out the fire and switch off the light – Cima mlilo, cima lo layit.

Put the bread in the oven – Faga lo sinkwa pagati ku lo avan.

Clean underneath the table – Sula pantsi ku lo taful.

Answer the telephone when it rings – Loskati lo telefom ena kala, pendula yena.

Give our number to start with – Tshela kuqala lo namba gatina.

When a master talks to you on the telephone ask his name and number – Noko lo-mlungu yena kuluma ga lo telefom, buza lo gama na lo namba gayena.

Call the nurse when the baby cries – Biza lo nesi noko lo bebi ena kala.

We eat at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. – Tina yidla skati ka seven ekuseni, skati ka wan ntambam, na seven busuku.

Clean the bath first and wash your apron later – Sula lo baf kuqala; washa lo eplon gawena baimbai.

Clean the knife, cut the bread and make toast – Sula lo mes, sika lo sinkwa, enza lo tosti.

Sharpen the knife: it is very blunt – Lola lo mes; ena butundu kakulu.

The woman is polishing the floor – Lo-mfazi ena polisha pantsi.

The food is cooked now – Lo skaf ena vutiwe manje.

Why have you not closed the window? – Yinindaba wena hayi valile lo festele?

Dirty (v) – mosha. Dish – dishi, stisha. Dog biscuits – kukis ga lo inja; dough – daga ga lo sinkwa; lay table – deka; mat – mata; carpet – kapet; serviette – sefeti; saucer – soso.

## 22 Food

### *Meat Dishes*

**Beef** – nyama ga lo nkomo

**Mutton** – nyama ga lo mvu

**Lamb** – nyama ga lo mvwana

**Pork** – nyama ga lo ngulube

**Dumpling** – dombolo

**Biltong** – biltang

**Polony** – poloni

**Bacon** – bakeni, beykn

**Gravy** – grevi

**Soup** – sobo

**Curry** – kari

**Stew** – stiu

**Venison** – nyamazan

### *Sweets*

**Custard** – kastadi

**cream** – ulaza

**jelly** – jeli

**pudding** – pudeni

**sweet melon** – kabe

**sugar** – shukela

### *Other*

**Kafir corn** – bele

**samp** – sampu

**peanut** – ntongomane

**biscuits** – kukis

**nut** – noti  
**maize** – mbila  
**flour** – flauwa  
**brown flour** – koring

### *Fruit and Vegetables*

**Avocado** – nkiwa, mkuwa,  
 evokada  
**banana** – banana  
**beetroot** – bitilud  
**carrots** – makelot  
**fig** – figi, kiwane  
**fruit** – mafrut  
**granadilla** – grenadila  
**grape** – greyip  
**guava** – gwava  
**lettuce** – letisi

**mango** – mengo  
**naartjie** – natshi  
**onion** – anyansi  
**orange** – olintsh  
**pawpaw** – popo  
**pomegranate** – hananadi,  
 halananda; pamegrenit  
**potatoes** – mazamban  
**pineapple** – payinapu  
**peach** – pitsh  
**peas** – pizi  
**pumpkin** – tanga  
**quince** – kwipi  
**radish** – redisi  
**spinach** – spinish  
**tomato** – tamata, tamatisi  
**vegetables** – mavejetebel

Set the table at six o'clock. Knives, forks, spoons, side-plates, serviettes – Deka lo taful skati ka sikis. Manayif, maforoko, maspun, pikinin pleyit, maservet.

Check whether there is sugar, milk, salt, pepper and Worcester sauce on the table – Buka noko ena kona lo shugela, melek, sawuti, pele-pele na lo wustasos ku lo taful.

Fry bacon, eggs and tomato for breakfast – Osa lo beykn, lo ekis na lo tamata skati ka brekfs.

Also make some toast – Futi, enza lo tosti.

I don't want porridge this morning – Mina hayi funa lo palitshi kuseni.

Put the beef back in the fridge. My brother has brought some venison – Bega lo-nyama ga lo-nkabi futi lapa lo frij. Lo bruda gamina yena figisile lo nyamazan.

Cut up some lettuce, pawpaw and avocado for the salad – Sika letisi, popo na evokado loskati wena enza lo saladi.

Put some custard on the guavas, and icecream on the pudding – Bega lo kastadi pezulu ku lo gwava na lo ayiskrim lapa lo pudeni.

Is the fruit ripe? – Mafrut yena vutiwe, na?

I want to taste the food – Mina funa nambita lo skaf.

## 23 In the Trading store

**Belt** – bande  
**ballpoint** – ink pensil  
**bloomers** – mablumas  
**blouse** – baitsh ga lo fazi  
**brassiere** – sapot; pat tu  
**coat** – baitsh

**dress** – rog, dres  
**dress material** (yard) – iyad  
**electric globe** – glas ga lo layit  
**expensive** – dura, dula  
**hankie** – faduk  
**leather** – skumba

**measure** – bima  
**red reflector** – staplayit  
**socks** – sokis ganyawo  
**vest** – kous; sokis  
**sale** – mandala

**soap** – ntsepu  
**razor** – reyiza  
**electric razor** – mtshina ga sheva  
**weigh** – faga skala

A sale is **mandala**, on which goods are cheapened (**tshipisa**). Items that are already cheap are **tshipile**. Longs and shorts are respectively **langwan bruk** and **fishan bruk**.

A cigarette lighter is commonly called **ganlayit**; its wick is **ntambo ga lo ganlyit** and its flint **malahle ga lo ganlayit**.

The cells of a torch (totsh) are **malahle ga lo totsh** or **matshe ga lo totsh**.

## 24 Money transactions

**Cent** – sent, senti  
**50 cent** – fiftisent

**Rand** – shumi; ranti, randi

A cheque is **tshek** or **sheke**, a receipt **risiti** and change is **tshintsh(i)**.

To pay is **batala** or **koka mali**. To barter is **enana**. "How much?" is "**Malini?**"

To owe is **kweleta**; a debt or account is **skweleti**.

To borrow is **boleka**; to lend is **tsheleka**.

Price and cost are **biza**, also **bizwa** (literally, what "is asked" for some article).

To deposit money is **valela mali**.

## 25 Mining

### Mining Vocabulary

**Note:** A very limited selection of mining terms is given here, mainly to assist people involved in small mines and quarries. A much more elaborate vocabulary can be found in the "Miners Dictionary in English, Afrikaans and Fanagalo" issued by the Mines Safety Division of the Chamber of Mines.

On the other hand it is self-evident that no miner lives all the time on the mine. Whether he spends his spare time and his vacations golfing, fishing or gardening, or helping in the domestic scene, he will find much useful material in the other chapters when communicating with Africans who might have only a smattering of English or Afrikaans.

**clerk** – mabalan  
**blast** – tshisa hol  
**charge up** – cobela  
**cocopan, ore car** – ngolovan  
**dump (n)** – ndunduma  
**dynamite** – jelatin  
**early shift** – vuka tshif  
**empty trucks** – mapanga  
**gassed** – dagiwe ga lo smok  
**igniter cord** – baleka fiyos  
**jackhammer, rock drill**  
 – madumelan

**jumper** – jompolo  
**knee guards** – madolo  
**lash** – layisha  
**misfire** – loskelem  
**mill (crushers)** – ngwenya  
**monorail** – wan-wan sporo  
**slimes** – motolo  
**sorter** – mketi  
**tamp, ram** – tampa  
**tommy bar** – pintshapintsh  
**waste (rock)** – mampara  
**water blast** – wotablas

## 26 Industrial

Tighten the bolt – Fasa lo bawut.

I don't want this short nail; I want a long one – Mina hayi funa lo fishan spikiri; mina funa lo langwan.

Remind the mechanic to inquire from the instructor – Kulumbisa lo makeniki ukuba yena buza lo instrakta.

Read the notice board before you knock off work – Funda lo notis bot pambili ga lo skati wena shayile.

Don't worry the driver – Hayi kataza lo draiva.

The gauge indicates that the tank is now full – Lo gejj komba lo tenk yena gwalisele manje.

Bring a lot more bricks; we shall start building tomorrow – Figisa maningi futi mastin; tina zo qala aka ngomso. (kusasa).

Mix the sand and the cement – Hlanganisa lo santi na lo samente.

When the cement has dried we shall erect the poles – Loskati lo samente yena omile tina zo yimsa mapal.

Where were you working before you came here? – Upi wena sebenzile pambili wena fikile lapa?

I have finished my work – Mina qedile lo-msebenzi gamina.

What is the name of this thing? – Yini lo gama ga lo into?

In is a wrench for turning the pipe – Yena lo bobojan yena pendula lo payip.

Which boy must I call? – Yini lo muntu mina yazi biza?

What does he want? – Yini yena funa?

How many boys are there outside? – Mangaki bantu yena kona lapa pandle?

Hit the nail with a hammer – Shaya lo spikiri nga lo hamela.

This machine is driven by electricity – Lo mtshini yena hamba nga lo gesi.

Why did you not mend the machine? – Yinindaba wena hayikona lungi-sile lo mtshini?

Raise your voice: I can't hear what you're saying – Pakamisa lo izwi gawena: mina hayikona izwa lo kuluma.

What did you say? I think you are telling lies – Utini? Mina kabanga wena kuluma manga.

No, sir, I am telling only the truth – Cha, nkos, mina kuluma mnyanis kupela.

The machine will not injure you – Lo mtshini hayiyazi limaza wena. Don't go near the electric wire – Hayikona hamba duze ku lo-ntambo ga lo gesi.

Put a stone in front of the wheel – Faga lo litye pambili ku lo wil. What is the time? – Yini lo skati?

It is one o'clock sharp – Skati ka wan manje.

He worked for one hour only – Yena sebenzile munye auwa kupela.

I want a man who works hard – Mina funa lo muntu yena sebenza stelek.

Look carefully for the place where the water is leaking and mend it – Setsha muhle lo-ndawo upi lo manzi ena vuza; lungisa yena.

I know how to work in a quarry – Mina azi lo-msebenzi lapa lo kwari.

You must wear your hard hat when you go to work – Faga zonke skat lo makalapa loskati wena hamba sebenza.

**Earth** is mhlaba and **sand** hlabati. "Knocking off time" is skati ga shayile, and the universally welcome command to cease work is "Shayile manje!"

## Industrial Terms

**blast furnace** – blas fonis

**blacksmith** – bleksmit

**bossboy** – basboy

**breakdown** – smesh

**bushing** – bering

**canvas tubing** – seyil ga lo moya

**clutch (n)** – klatsh

**coupling rod** – hukspayik

**crane** – kreyen

**crusher** – ngwenya

**dog spike** – dokis

**drill, jumper** – jombolo

**drill a hole** – shaya holo

**elbow** – elbo ga lo payip, bend

**electric drill** – sishikan

**fuse lighter** – tshisastik

**excavate** – goda

**excavation** – mgodi

**foundry** – fontri

**gauze goggles** – sefmehlo

**helmet, safety hat** – makalapa  
**knocking off (time)** – (skati ga) tshayile

**lubricator** – skodonga

**monkey wrench** – bobojan spanela

**nail extractor** – salamabij, sanamabij

**power** – stim

**quarry** – kwari

**red hot** – bomvu ga lo tshisa

**rust** – rus, tomba

**rusted** – tombile

**sack, fire, discharge** – posa tikit

**safety (first)** – vimbela ngozi

**shift boss** – shifbas

**shunt** – shendela

**survey peg** – skonkwan

**winch** – wintsh

**workmen** – basebenzi

## 27 Gardening

Do you perhaps know a man who can work in the garden on Tuesdays and Fridays? – Wena azi mhlambe lomunye muntu yena funa se-benza lapa lo gadin skati ka Tiusdeyi na Fraideyi futi?.

Mow the lawn with the machine – Sika lo tshani nga lo mtshin.

Kill the beetles with the spray but don't harm any bees – Bulala mabungane nga lo spreyi, kodwa hayikona limaza manyosi.

You must water the garden at five in the afternoon – Tela manzi lapa lo gadin skati ka fayif mtambam.

Pull out all the weeds – Kipa zonk' ukula.

Close the gate when you have entered – Vala lo geyit loskati wena ngenile.

Water the vegetables – Tela manzi lapa mavejetebel.

Don't kill the wagtail; it is a harmless bird – Hayikona bulala lo mvemve; ena mushle nyoni.

Dig here – Yimba lapa.

Dig a hole; put some manure and grass into it; in this way we make compost – Yimba lo-mgodi; faga lo manyoro na lo tshani; tina enza kompos njalo.

When you have dug up the soil, work in some manure and level the ground again nicely – Loskati wena yimbile lo-mhlabati, faga lo manyoro; linganisa lo-mhlabati muhle futi.

This flower likes the shade – Diswan imbali ena tanda lo-mtunzi.

## 28 Farming

### *Cattle*

Hurry up, go and milk the cows – Hamba tshetsha, senga zinkomo.

See the calves don't suck all the milk – Basopa mankonyana ena hayikona ncela zonke melek.

Put the cattle in the kraal – Ngenisa zinkomo lapa lo-mzi.

Go and look for the lost oxen – Hamba funa zinkabi ena lahlegile.

Fasten the gate of the kraal carefully lest the oxen get out at night – Vala muhle lo geyit ga lo-mzi ukuba zinkabi ena hayiyazi puma busuku.

### *Horses*

Catch the horses, groom them and water them – Bamba mahashi, sula yena na puzisa yena.

Put the horses in the stable and give them some oats – Ngenisa mahashi lapa lo stebel; niga yena lo folitsh (lo habile).

Saddle and bridle the horse – Faga lo sal na lo tom lapa lo hashi.

Fodder – Kudla ga lo hashi.

Pound (for animals) – skiti.

### *Other Animals*

The goats have destroyed all the young trees – Zimbuzi ena bulalile zonke pikanin mti.



Take care the lambs don't stray – Basopa zimvwana yena hayi duka.  
 Did you feed the pigs? – Wena idlisa zingulube, na?  
 Tell the herdboyc to come here at once. He left three lambs outside the kraal and jackals killed them all – Tshela umalusi buya konamanje.  
 Yena lahlegile matatu mvwana ngapandle ga lo mzi; mapungushe yena bulalile zonke.  
 Drive away – Xotsha. Bring out – Pumisa. Bring together – Hlanganisa.  
 Collect – Butela. Castrate, prune – tena.  
 Drive – shayela; guide (v) – kombisa; chaff – makoba; fodder – foda;  
 rake – hara, hark; root – mpande; progeny, offspring – lo zalo.

### *Tractors*

Do you know how to drive this tractor? – Wena azi sebenzisa lo treka, na?  
 Don't waste petrol while filling – Hayikona mosha lo petrol loskati wena gwalisa.  
 When you have finished ploughing tell the foreman – Loskati wena qe-dile lima, tshela lo foloman.

### *Cultivation*

The soil is wet now; go and plant the mealies – Lo-mhlabati yena manzi manje; hamba tshala lo-mbila.  
 Tomorrow we are going to plough on the other side of the river – Ngomso tina zo lima lapa pesheya.  
 Put the plough and the harrow on the truck; cross the river and unload on this side of the land – Layisha lo geja na lo hlagula pezulu ku lo troko; wela lo-mfula; etula ena nganeno ga lo-nsimi.  
 Plant the potatoes – Tshala mazamban.  
 Lift some potatoes; not too many – Kipa mazamban; hayikona maningi.  
 Irrigate the peanut crop today – Nisela ntongomane namuhla.  
 Sorry, the pump is broken – Sori, no pompi yena pugile.  
 Not so, it only needs some paraffin – Hayikona, yena funa lo parafin kupela.  
 Load carrots, cabbages, and beetroot into the lorry. I'm going to the market tomorrow morning – Layisha makaloti na maklabish na lo bitilude pagati ku lo lori. Mina zo hamba lapa lo maket kusasa.

## **29 Magistrate's court**

### **Administration of Oath**

Swear that the evidence you give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Put up your right hand and say "So help me God".  
 Tshela manje wena zo kuluma nyanis kupela. Yimisa lo sandla ga lo raiyitsayid; uti "Nkos-pezu lu sinda mina."

**acknowledge** – vuma  
**act** – mteto  
**affidavit** – sifungo  
**answer** (v) – pendula  
**answer** (n) – mpendulo  
**arrested** – banjwa  
**ask** – buza  
**assault** – shaya  
**complain** – kala, mangala  
**contradict** – pika  
**convict** (n) – bandit, boshwa  
**convict** (v) – gweba  
**court case** – indaba  
**dagga** – dagha, insangu  
**decide** – gweba, nquma  
**defend** – vikela  
**deny** – pika  
**detective** – fokis  
**document** – ncwadi, brif  
**drunk** – dagiwe  
**evidence** – fakazi  
**give evidence** – fakaza  
**exaggerate** – andisa, kulisa  
**fight** (v) – ilwa  
**fine** (n) – fayin  
**fist** – bakela  
**gamble** (v) – bekelana  
**goal** – jele, trongo, stokis, jeyil  
**guard** (v) – basopisa  
**guilty** – kona, cala

**hard labour** – lukuni sebenza;  
 stokis  
**harm, injure** – limaza  
**honest** – qoto  
**hooligans** – amalayita, matsotsi  
**illicit brew** – babaton, skokian,  
 qediviki  
**interpreter** – toliki  
**judge** (n) – ijaji, mgwebi  
**judge** (v) – gweba  
**judgment** – mgwebo  
**law** – mteto (ga lo hulumende)  
**listen** – lalela, izwa  
**magistrate** – majistlet  
**mislead** – kohlisa  
**police** – poyisa  
**police van** – pikap  
**question** (v) – buza  
**question** (n) – mbuzo, ndaba  
**remember** – kumbula  
**robber** – mtshontshi  
**sober** – hayi dagiwe  
**stand up** – sukuma, pakama  
**steal** – tshontsha  
**swear** – funga, tuka  
**thief** – mtshontshi  
**truth** – nyaniso  
**try** (by law) – teta  
**understand** – qonda  
**witness** (v) – bona  
**witness** (n) – fakaz

## 30 Swahili and Fanagalo

Swahili, the *lingua franca* of East Africa, is similar in some respects to Fanagalo. Swahili is basically a Bantu language, with Arabic and other modifications, and many of the words in its vocabulary are identical with the Fanagalo equivalents. For instance NYOKA (snake), BABA (father), FIKA (arrive), KUKU (hen), LIMA (cultivate ground), LALA (lie down), LETA (bring) and MBUZI (goat) are identically spelt and pronounced in Swahili and Fanagalo, as are MATE (saliva), MAFUTA (oil, fat), MTI (tree), NA (and, with), NYAMA (meat), NGOMA (drum), NUKA (Stink), NYATI (buffalo), VUNA (reap), and PAKA (cat).

Many other words in the two languages are similar, for instance (the Swahili term is given first, and the Fanagalo term in brackets): Fa (ifa) – die; Fundisha (fundisa) – teach; Hama (hamba) – go; Ingia (nge-na) – enter; Ingi (maningi) – much, many; Kifua (sifuba) – chest; Kosa

(posa) – miss; Kumbuka (kumbula) – remember; Kale (kade) – long ago; Maji (manzi) – water; Mini (mina) – me; Mwaka (nyaka) – year; Mtu (ntu) – person; Mvua (mvula) – rain; Mzungu (mlungu) – White man; Mwana (mtwana) – child; Nguruwe (ngulube) – pig; Tuliza (tulis-a) – pacify; Uma (luma) – bite, hurt; Usiku (busuku) – night; ulimi (limi) – tongue; Wakati (skati) – time; Wewe (wena) – you; Zito (nzi-ma) – heavy. Counting is also similar, for instance: Moja (munye) – one; Mbili (mabili) – two; Tatu (matatu) – three; Kumi (shumi) – ten.

DOGO means “small” and KIDOGO “a little”. MKUBWA is “big”, hence BWANA MKUBWA (big boss) and NYOKA MKUBWA (pyth-on). A zebra is PUNDA MILIA.

When you go on SAFARI with the ASKARI for the purpose of shooting SIMBA and TEMBO (elephant) you can make a MOTO (fire) which will give off MOSHI (smoke) while you cook the CHAKULA, (food), consisting of MKATE (bread) and CHAI (tea) for which you have paid good PESA (money) to the MWARABU (Arab) along the BARABARA (road). When you arrived at the Arab’s shop you said JAMBO (hullo) and exchanged SALAMU (greetings). To your enquiry HODI! (may I enter) the Arab replied KARIBU (enter) and not HAPANA (no). In the DUKA (shop) you dealt in SENTI, SHILINGI, SENTI TANO (5 cents) and SENTI KUMI (10c).

Swahili, because of its grammatical inflections, is by no means as simple a language as Fanagalo.

## 31 How to translate

When consulting this dictionary for the Fanagalo version of a particular English word don’t panic if the word you have in mind is missing from the English side of the vocabulary. Just think of a synonym – the simpler the better – and then look again. For instance take a group of terms like: abide, dwell, remain, reside, sit, sojourn. These words may or may not appear in the vocabulary, but they all have the basic meaning “to stay”, for which the Fanagalo equivalent is “hlala”. The reason why *all* the variations of English words are not quoted in this booklet is that such a process would make it too bulky for a handy pocket-size guide.

The same process of simplification applies to the translation of phrases and sentences. How would you translate this sentence into Fanagalo? – “The cerebral malfunctioning of the neophyte is attributable to psychological disturbance”. Elementary, my dear Watson – “lo nyuwan hayi qonda muhle ndaba yena gula lapa lo skop”, which in simple English signifies that “the beginner can’t think straight because he’s sick in his head.” That is an extreme illustration, but the principle remains the same: whatever you want to translate, extract the real meaning BEFORE you translate. Even the most pretentious words and

phrases can be dealt with in this manner. Thus ESCALATING = INCREASE = ANDA, and DIALOGUE = TALK = KULUMA. One could almost say that anyone who spent a little time on translations into Fanagalo would find himself thinking more clearly as a result!

### **How to Use the Vocabulary**

To find the equivalent of any word, go to the vocabulary at the end of this booklet, either the English-Fanagalo or the Fanagalo-English. If you can't find the word you want, refer to the appropriate section, such as Mining, Industrial, Sport, Medical, Magistrate's Court or Money Transactions.

## 32 English – Fanagalo Dictionary

**Note:** Abbreviations used are (n) noun; (v) verb; (pl) plural; (adj) adjective; (vi) verb intransitive; (vt) verb transitive.

### A

- abandon** (leave) – shiya  
**able** – azi  
**abode** – mzi  
**above** – pezulu  
**abdomen** – sisu  
**abscess** – tumba  
**absent** – lovine; hayi figile  
**absentee** (from work) – lova  
**accident** – ingozi, smesh  
**accident prevention** – vimbela-ngozi  
**accompany** – hamba na  
**account** (n) – skweleti  
**accuse** – mangala  
**acetylene** – kabaiyid, asetalin  
**acid** – esid  
**acknowledge** – vuma  
**act** (v) – enza  
**Act** (n) – mteto  
**actual** – kona mpela  
**adapt** – lungisela  
**add** – hlanganisa  
**advice** – luleko  
**advise** – luleka  
**aeroplane** – flaimashin, banoyi  
**affair** – indaba  
**affection** – tanda  
**affidavit** – sifungo  
**afflict** – hlupa  
**afflicted** – hlupekile  
**afraid** – saba  
**Afrikaans** – Sibulu  
**after** – emva, muva  
**afternoon** – mtambam; muva ga mini.  
**afterwards** – mbaimbai  
**again** – futi  
**age** – budala  
**aged** – dala, madala  
**agree** – vuma  
**agreement** (contract) – kontlati  
**ahead** – pambili  
**aid** (v) – siza  
**aid** (n) – sizwa  
**air** (n) – moya  
**air hose** – ntambo ga lo smok  
**alarm** (frighten) – sabisa  
**alarm** (warn) – basopisa  
**alcohol** – alkoli, tshwala  
**alike** – fana, fana na  
**alive** – kona, izwa  
**all** – zonke  
**allay, alleviate** – tulisa  
**allow, authorise** – vumela  
**all right** – lungile  
**almanac** – kalenda  
**almost** – pose, ampur  
**alone** (only, all there is) – kupela  
**alone** (by himself, solitary) – yedwa  
**already** – manje  
**also** – futi  
**although** – noko  
**always** – zonkeskat  
**a.m.** (daybreak to noon) – ekunseni; kusasa  
**amber** – mpofu  
**ambulance** – ambulens (pl. ma-ambulens)  
**amputate** – nquma  
**amuse** – dlalisa, hlegisa  
**ancestor** – koko  
**and** – na  
**angel** – ingelosi  
**angling** – doba  
**angry** – kwata, tukutele

**animal** – silwane  
**ankle** – qakala  
**annoy** – kataza, kwatisa  
**annoyance** – inkatazo  
**another** – munye, omnye  
**answer** (v) – pendula, sabela  
**answer** (n) – mpendulo  
**ant** – ntutwane  
**any** – uto  
**anybody, anyone** – munye muntu; omnye.  
**any day** – mhlaumbe munye langa  
**any more** – lomunye  
**anything** – uto; noko munye into; mhlaumbe munye into  
**anything** (“nothing is particular”) – luto  
**any time** – mhlaumbe munye skati  
**anywhere** – noko upi ndawo; mhlaumbe munye mdawo  
**apple** – apele, apula  
**approach** (v) – sondela  
**apricot** – pilikos  
**April** – Epril  
**apron** – eplon  
**aptitude test** – malabalaba  
**are** – kona  
**arid** – omile  
**argue** – pikisana  
**arm** (n) – ingalo  
**armpit** – kwapa  
**around** – jigela  
**arrest** – bamba  
**arrested** – banjwa  
**arrive** – figa  
**army** – impi  
**artery** – mtambo ga lo bomvu gazi  
**ash(es)** – mlota  
**ask** – buza  
**asleep** – lele, lala  
**assault** – shaya  
**assegai** – mkonto  
**assemble** (v) – hlangana  
**assembly** (n) – mhlango  
**assist** – siza  
**astonish** – mangalisa  
**at** – lapa, kwa, ku

**atmosphere** – moya  
**attempt** (v) – linga  
**audible** – izwakala  
**audit** – odit  
**August** – Agosi  
**aunt** (paternal) – dadewobaba  
**aunt** (maternal) – mamekazi  
**aunt** – anti  
**Autumn** – Kwindla  
**avert** – vimbela  
**awake** – vukile  
**axe** – tshapu, zembe  
**axle** – tshaf, i-asi

## B

**baby** – bebi  
**back** (of body) – mhlane  
**backbone** – mhlantla  
**backwards** – muva, emva  
**bad** – bubi, mubi, hayimuhle  
**bag** – saka  
**baggage** – mpahla  
**bait** – tiyo  
**bake** – osa  
**balance** (v) – lingana  
**balance** (scales) (n) – skali  
**bald** – mpandla  
**bale** (n) – bele, bero  
**bale** (v) – kipa (manzi)  
**ball** – bol  
**ballpoint pen** – ink pensil  
**banana** – banana, banan  
**bandage** – bendej  
**bangle** – songo  
**bank** (commercial) – bangi  
**bank note(s)** – pepa mali  
**bankrupt** (become) – shona  
**Bantu** (“Brown People”) – Abanstsundu  
**bantu** (people in general; persons) – bantu  
**bargain** – tshipisa  
**bark** (v) – konkota  
**bark** (of tree) – ixolo  
**barley** – bali  
**barn** – stolo  
**barrel** – faji

- barter** – enana  
**basket** – basket  
**bath** (n) – baf  
**bath** (v) – geza lomzimba  
**bathe** – geza, washa, hlamba  
**battery** – beteri  
**be** – kona  
**bead(s)** – buhlalu  
**beard** – silevu  
**bean** – mbontshi, indumba  
**beast** – silwane  
**beat** (v) – beta, shaya  
**because** – ndaba, kukuba, ukuba, kona.  
**bed** – mbede  
**bedbug** – imbungulu  
**bedroom** – kamela ga lala  
**bee** – nyosi  
     **(queen bee)** – nkosi nyosi  
**beef** – nyama ga lo-nkabi  
**beer** – tshwala  
**beetle** – bungane  
**before** (place) – pambili (ku)  
**before** (time) – pambili ga lo skati; kuqala  
**beg** – cela  
**begin** – qala  
**behind** – muva, emva  
**belch** – bodla, pafuza  
**belief** – nkolo  
**believe** – kolwa, kabanga  
**bell** – nsimbi; klok  
**bellows (forge)** – mvuto  
**belly** – sisu  
**below** – pansi, pantsi  
**belt** – banti, bande  
**bend** (v) – goba  
**bend** (cause to) – gobisa  
**bent** (adj) – gobekile  
**beside** – duze ku  
**best** – muhle stelek, muhle mpela  
**better** (in health) – dlulayo, pila, betele, lungile  
**between** – nga-pagati  
**beware** – basopa  
**bewilder** – dukisa  
**bewitch** – tagata  
**bewitched** – tagati  
**Bible** – Baibel  
**bicycle** – baisikil  
**big** – makulu  
**bile** – nyongo  
**bind** – bopa, fasa  
**bioscope** – bayiskopu  
**bird** – nyoni  
**birth** – ukuzala, ukuzalwa  
**biscuits** – kukis  
**bitch** – injakazi  
**bite** (v) – luma  
**bitter** – babayo  
**black** – mnyama, minyama  
**blackboard** – sleyit, bodi  
**blame** – ndaba ga; sola  
**blanket** – ngubo, gombezo, bulanket  
**bleed** – puma lo gazi  
**bless** – sikelela, busisa  
**blind** (adj) – mpumpute; hayibona; mehlo hayi buka  
**blood** – gazi  
**bloodvessel** – mtambo  
**bloomers** – mablumas  
**blossom** (n) – imbali  
**blow** (breeze) – pepeta, vunguza  
**blow** (the fire) – vutela  
**blow** (the nose) – finyeza  
**blue** – bluan  
**blunt** – butundu; hayikona juba  
**boat** – skepe  
**board** (n) – bodi  
**board** (v) – kwela  
**body** – mzimba  
**boil** (v) – bila  
**boil** (cause to) – bilisa  
**bold** – nesibindi; hayi saba  
**bone** – tambo  
**bonsella** – basela  
**bonus** – basela  
**book** – buk, ncwadi  
**bookkeeper, accountant** – mbali  
**boot** – skatula  
**bore** (drill) (v) – bola  
**borrow** – boleka, tshleka  
**born** – zalwa  
**boss** – bas  
**bossboy** – basboy  
**both** – babili, mabili

**both** (of them) – yenababili  
**bother** – kataza  
**Botswana** (territory) – Botswana  
**bottle** – bodlela  
**bottle store** – stolo ga lo tshwala  
**bottom** – lapa pansi  
**boulder** – (makulu) litshe  
**box** (n) – bokis  
**box** (v), boxing – dlala nga bakela  
**bowel** – tumbu  
**bowels** – matumbu  
**boy** – boy; mfan (pl. bafan)  
**brag, bluff** – gaba  
**brake** – breyik, briki  
**brain** (n) – bukopa, bucopa  
**brandy** – brendi  
**brassiere** – sapot  
**brave** – nesibindi; hayi saba  
**bread** – sinkwa  
**break** (vi) – puga  
**break** (vt) – pula  
**break in** (horse, etc.) – tambisa, fundisa  
**break wind, pass wind** – suza  
**breath** – moya, mpefumulo  
**breathe** – pefumula  
**breast** (female) – mbele  
**breed** (v) – zala, fuya  
**brick** – stin  
**bride** – mkoti  
**bridge** (n) – bologhwe, bulughwe  
**bridegroom** – myeni  
**bridle** (n) – tom  
**brighten** – kanyisa  
**bring** – figisa, leta, landa  
**bring back** – buyisa  
**bring in** – ngenisa  
**bring together** – butela  
**broad** – banzi  
**broom** – mshanyelo  
**brother** – bruda  
**brown** – nsundu  
**bucket** – bakete  
**bug** (see **bedbug**)  
**build** – aka  
**bull** – nkunzi  
**bundle** (n) – bondela  
**burn** (n) – silondo-ga-mlilo  
**burner** – bonela

**burst** (v) – dabuka  
**bushing** – bering  
**bushtick** – kaza, kazane.  
**bury** (a corpse) – tshala, ncwaba, fihla  
**busy** – bizi; maningi msebenzi  
**but** – kodwa  
**butcher** – busha, butsha  
**butter** – botela  
**butterfly** – mvemvane  
**buttermilk; sour milk** – masi  
**buttocks** – sinqe  
**button** – knopi  
**buy** – tenga  
**buyer** – mtengi  
**by** (position) – lapa  
**by** (agency) – nga, ga

## C

**cabbage** – klabish  
**cable** (electric) – kebul; ntambo ga lo ges  
**cackle** – kekela  
**caddie** – kedi  
**calculate** – bala  
**calf** (animal) – konyane  
**call** (v) – biza  
**calm** – tulile  
**calm** (v) – dambisa  
**can** (v) – azi, yazi  
**candle** – kandlela  
**cannibal** – dlabantu  
**cannot** – hayiyazi (enza)  
**canvas** – seyil  
**capsize** – wisa, pendula  
**capsized** – iwile, wile  
**car** – motokali  
**carbide** – kabaiyid  
**carcass** – dumbu  
**carefully** – gahle  
**carpenter** – kapenta  
**carpet** – kapet  
**carrot** – kaloti, makelot  
**carry** – pata, twala  
**carve** – juba  
**castor oil** – kasta oil



- castrate** – tena  
**cat** – katsi, kitsi, paka  
**cat** (mother) – katsikazi  
**catch** (v) – bamba  
**cattle** – zinkomo  
**caught** – banjwa  
**cease** – pela  
**cement** – samente  
**cemetery** – kwamatuna  
**cent** – sent, peni  
**centre** – pagati mpela  
**certainly!** – yebo! nyanis!  
**certificate** – setifiket  
**certify** – bala setifiket  
**chain** (n) – tsheyini, ketang  
**chair** (n) – sihlalo, stul  
**chance** – tuba, loskat  
**change** (v) – tshintsha  
**change** (money) (n) – tshintshi  
**change money** (v) – tshintsha  
**changeroom** – tshintsh haus  
**chase away** – sukisa, balekisa  
**cheat** (v) – kohlisa  
**cheap** – tshipile  
**cheapen** – tshipisa  
**cheek** (of face) – sihlati  
**cheerful** – tokozile, jabulile  
**cheeky** – tshiki; kona tshik  
**cheese** – shizi  
**cheque** – tsheke  
**chest** (of body) – sifuba  
**chew** (v) – hlafuna, luma  
**Chief** – Nkosi  
**chief** (of kraal) – numzan  
**child** – mtwana, ngane; pikanin  
**children** – bantwana  
**chimney** – shimula  
**chin** – silevu  
**chisel** – tshizel  
**chocolate** – tshokoleti  
**choke** (v) – gwinca, binda  
**choose** – keta  
**chop** (v) – gaula, gawula  
**chopper** – tshapu, pikanin zembe  
**Christ** – Kristu, Krestu  
**Christianity** – kolwa ga Krestu  
**Christmas** (Box) – Kisimus,  
 Krismus  
**church** – senteni
- cigarette** – sigaret, sikilidi  
**cigarette lighter** – ganlayit  
**cinema** – bayiskopu  
**circle** – lo rawund  
**circus** – strongimani  
**clean** (v) – sula  
**clean** (adj), cleaned – sulawe  
**clerk** – mabalan, mbali  
**clerical services** – msebenzi  
 ga lo mabalan  
**clever** – hlakanipile  
**climb, mount** – kwela  
**clock** – watch  
**close** (v) – vala  
**close** (near) – duze  
**cloth** – duku, limbo, lapi  
**clothes** – mpahla, ngubo  
**cloud** – ifu  
**clouds** – mafu  
**club** (stick) – duku  
**coal** (n) – malahle  
**coat** – baitsh  
**cock** (fowl) – qude; ndoda ga  
 lo-nkuku  
**cock** (tap) – tep, tapu  
**cocoa** – koukou  
**cockroaches** – magugu  
**coffee** – kofi  
**cold** (adj) – makaza  
**cold** (flu) – mkuhlane  
**collar** – kololo  
**colleague** – wetu  
**collect** – buta, hlanganisa  
**colour** (n) – mbala, mhlobo  
**colours** – mabala  
**comb** – kam  
**come** – figa  
**come back** – buya  
**come closer** – sondela  
**come from** – vela  
**come out** – puma  
**comfort** (v) – duduza  
**compare** – linganisa  
**compel** – nyanzela  
**complain** – kala, lila, mangala  
**compose** – kompos  
**compound** (n) – komponi  
**compound manager** – komponi  
 maneja

**commando** – impi  
**complete** (v) – qedisa  
**computer** – komputa  
**conceal** – dukisa, fihla  
**confirm** – qinisa  
**congregate** – buta  
**connecting link** – shekel  
**conquer** – hlula  
**consent** (v) – vuma  
**consent** (n) – lo vumelo  
**console** – duduzu  
**consult** – bonisana  
**continue** – enza futi  
**continuously** – njalo-njalo  
**contract** (agreement) – kontlati, joyin  
**contradict** – pika  
**converse** (v) – kuluma  
**convict** (n) – bandit, banjwa  
**cook** (v) – pega  
**cook** (n) – kuk, mpegi  
**cooked** – vutiwe  
**cool** – polile; mkaza-mbitshan  
(is) **cool** – polile  
**cool off** – pola  
**copulate** – hlangana, jiga, lalana  
**copulate** (animals) – kwela  
**copy** (v) – fanisa  
**cord** – igoda, ntambo  
**cork** – sivalo, lo valo, propi  
**corner** (n) – konela  
**corpse** – sidumbu  
**correct** (v) – lungisa  
**correct** (adv) – lungile  
**cost** – mali, malini?  
**cotton wool** – boya, katonwul  
**couch** – sihlalo, soufa  
**cough** – kohlela, kwehlela  
**cough** (n) – kohloko  
**count** (v) – bala, hlanganisa  
**country** – lizwe, mhlabati  
**courage** – sibindi  
**court** (woo) (v) – shela  
**court case** – indaba  
**cover** (v) – vala  
**cover** (n) – silvalo, lo valo  
**covet** – fisa  
**cow** (n) – nkomo, nkomazi  
**coward** – gwala

**crack** (v) – dabuka  
**crash** (v) – wowa, smesh  
**crawl** – kasa  
**cream** – ulaza, krim  
**create** – dala  
**creator** – mdali  
**Creator** – Mdali  
**Credit** (buying) – tenga sikwerete  
**cricket** – kriket  
**crooked** – gobile; hayi streyit  
**cross** (n) – spambano  
**cross over** – wela, dlula  
**crow** (bird) – igwababa  
**crowbar** – jimkrou  
**cruel** – nonya  
**crush** (v) – gaya  
**crust** – koko  
**crutches** – nduku ga hamba  
**cry** (v) – kala  
**cry out** (shout) – memeza  
**cupboard** – kabete  
**cure** (v) – pilile  
**current** (elec) – ges  
**curse** (v) – tuka  
**curtain** – keteni  
**custom** – nkambiso  
**cut** (v) – sika, juba  
**cup** – komitshi  
**cyanide** – sayinet

## D

**dagga** – dagha, insangu  
**dairy** – deri  
**dam** – dam  
**damage** (v) – pula, bulala  
**dance** (v) – sina, dansa  
**dance** (n) – dans, mdanso, msino  
**dance** (tribal) – mshongolo  
**danger** – ingozi  
**dangerous** – nengozi  
**dark** – mnyamana  
**date** – langa  
**daughter** – intombazana  
**dawn** – kusasa  
**day** – ntsuku, langa  
**daytime** – skati ka langa

**dead** – file  
**deadly** – bulalayo  
**deaf** – hayi azi izwa  
**dear** (in price) – dura  
**death** – ukufa, gufa, sifo  
**debt** – skweleti  
**December** – Disemba  
**deceive** – kohlisa  
**decide** – gweba  
**decline** (refuse) (v) – ala; hayi vuma  
**decompose** – bola  
**deep** – pansi stelek  
**defecate** – boshala  
**defend** – vikela  
**dehydrate** – omisa  
**dehydrated** – omile  
**delay** (v) – libala  
**delight** (v) – jabulisa, tokozisa  
**deny** – pika  
**deposit** – valela mali  
**descend** – ehla  
**desire** (v) – fisa, funa  
**desk** – deseki  
**detective** – fokis  
**detonator** – dopi  
**Devil** – Satan  
**dew** – mazolo  
**diagram** – mfanekiso  
**diamond** – dayimani  
**diarrhoea** – hudo  
**die** (v) – ifa  
**different** – hayikona fana  
**difficult** – nzima, lukuni  
**dig** – yimba, imba  
**dim** – hayi kanye muhle  
**dinner** – dina  
**direct** (v) – komba  
**dirt, dirty** – doti, bubi  
**disappear** – duka  
**dish** – ndish, sitsha  
**dishcloth** – faduk  
**dislike** (v) – hyitanda  
**distance** – stuba  
**distant** – kashana, kude  
**divide** (v) – ahluka (nisa)  
**do** – enza  
**doctor** (n) – dokotela  
**document** – ncwadi, brif

**dog** –inja  
**dog** (wild) – makanyan  
**doll** – popi  
**done** – enzile  
**donga** – donga  
**donkey** – bongolo, donki  
**don't** – hayikona, musa  
**don't know** – hayiyazi  
**don't see** – hayibona  
**don't want** – hayifuna  
**door** – nyango, sivalo  
**dove** – juba  
**down** – pansi  
**drag** (v) – donsa  
**draw** (line, sketch) – dweba  
**draw wages** – hola  
**draw** (pull) (v) – donsa  
**dream** (v) – pupa  
**dream** (n) – lo pupo  
**dress** (frock) – rog, dres  
**dressings** (medical) – bendej, mdweshwana  
**dressings** – madweshwana  
**dressings station** – sibedlele  
**dried** – omile  
**drift** (ford) (n) – delef  
**drink** (v) – puza  
**drinking water** – puzamanzi  
**drip** (v) – tona  
**drive** (v) (car, cart) – shayela  
**driver** – draiva, shayeli  
**drive** (animals) **away** – xotsha  
**drop** (v) – iwisa  
**drop** (n) (of water, etc.) – tsoni  
**down** – minzisa, shona  
**drum** (musical) – ngoma, sigubo  
**drum** (machinery) – drom  
**drum** (container) – kokok, tin, konka  
**drunk** – dagiwe  
**dry** (v) – omisa  
**dry** (become) – oma  
**duck** (bird) – idada  
**dumb** – hayi kuluma  
**dump** – ndunduma  
**dust** (v) – sula  
**dust** (n) – tuli  
**duty** – msebenzi, mfanelo  
**dynamite** – jalatin  
**dynamo** – moto yena enza lo ges

# E

**ear** – ndlebe  
**earache** – ukuwelwa-ga-ndlebe  
**early** (in the day) – kuseni  
**earth** (world) – mhlaba  
**East** – Pumalanga  
**easy** – lula  
**eat** – idla, puza  
**edit, arrange** – hlela  
**editor** – mhleli  
**eel** – mbokwane  
**egg** – qanda, ekis  
**eight** – eyit  
**eighteen** – eyitin  
**eighty** – eyiti  
**elastic** – joloba  
**elbow** (n) – noneba, ndolowane  
**electric globe** – glas ga lo layit  
**electric motor** – moto ga lo ges  
**electricity** – ges  
**elevator** – lifi  
**eleven** – leven  
**embankment** – donga  
**embrace** – bambana  
**emetic** – mhlanziso  
**employ** (v) – sebenzisa  
**empty** – emti; kona nikis pagati  
**end** (n) – lapa yena pela  
**end** (v) – pela  
**ended** – pelile  
**engineer** – injiniya  
**English** – Singisi  
**enough** – lungile manje  
**enquire** – buza  
**enter** – ngena  
**entrails** – matumbu  
**envelope** – evelopu  
**envy** – umona  
**epilepsy** – stutwane  
**epsom salts** – soda, sawuti  
**erect** (v) – imisa, aka  
**error** – masteyk  
**evening** – kusishwa, tshonalanga  
**every** – zonke  
**every day** – zonke ntsuku  
**every time** – zonkeskat  
**everywhere** – zonke ndawo

**evidence** – fakazi  
**evidence** (give) (v) – fakaza  
**evil** – ububi, mubi  
**exaggerate** – andisa, kulisa  
**examine, test, investigate** – setsha  
**excel** – dlula  
**exchange** – enana  
**exclamation** –  
     (of wonderment) – au! hau!  
     (of disapproval) – atsh!  
     (of disgust) – x!  
**exist** – kona  
**exhaust** (pipe) – egzos (payip)  
**exit** – ndawo ga puma  
**expensive** – dura; maningi mali  
**explosion** – duduma  
**extinguish** – cima  
**extra** – futi  
**extract** – kipa, pumisa  
**eye** – iso. iliso, ihlo  
**eyes** – mehlo

# F

**face** – buso  
**factory** – fektri  
**faith, trust** – temba  
**fall** (v) – iwa, wowa  
**fallen** – wile, iwile  
**fan** – fen  
**fanbelt** – fenbelt  
**far** – kude, kashane  
**fart** (v) – suza  
**farm** – fam, plas, pulazi  
**fascinate** – tandisa  
**fast** (starve) – hayikona idla;  
     hayikona puza; yeka lo kudla  
**fasten** – bopa, fasa  
**fat** – mafuta  
**father** – baba  
**fault** (your) – ndaba ga wena  
**favour** – musa  
**fear** – saba  
**fearless** – nesibindi; hayi saba  
**feather** – pape, nsiba  
**February** – Febuwari

- feed** (give food to) – idlisa  
**feel** – izwa  
**feet** (measure of length) – fiti  
**fertilizer** – manyoro  
**fetch** – hamba tata; figisa, landa, leta, tola  
**fever** – fiva  
**few** – mbitshan  
**field rat** – ibuzi  
**fifteen** – fiftin  
**fifty** – fifti  
**fight** (v) – ilwa  
**file** – fayil  
**fill** (v) – gwalisa  
**film** – filum  
**find** (v) – tola  
**finger** (n) – munwe  
**ingernail** – zipo  
**finish** (v) – qeda; pela  
**finished** – qedile; pelile  
**fire** (n) – mlilo  
**fire** (a gun) (v) – dabula  
**fire extinguisher** – tanka yena cima mlilo  
**firefly** – inkanyezi  
**first(ly)** – kuqala  
**first-aid post** – sibedlele  
**firewood** – nkuni  
**fish** (v) – doba  
**fish** (n) – ntlanzi, fish  
**fist** – bakela  
**fit** (epileptic) – stutwane  
**five** – fayif, hlanu  
**fix** (v) – lungisa  
**flame** (n) – mlilo  
**flap** (v) – papa  
**flat** (adj) – lelisiwe  
**flea** – intwakumba, zenze  
**floor** – pantsi  
**flower** – imbali  
**'flu** (see **influenza**)  
**fly** (n) – mpukane  
**fly** (v) – diza  
**fold** (v) – songa  
**follow** – landela  
**food** – skaf(u), kudla  
**fool** (n) – situta, spukupuk, mampara  
**foot** – nyawo  
**(on) foot** – ganyawo  
**foot** (12 inches) – fut  
**football** – futbol  
**forage** (n) – folish, kudla  
**ford** (v) – wela  
**ford** (n) – delef  
**foreman** – foloman  
**forest** – hlati  
**forget** – kohla  
**fork** – foroko  
**forty** – foti  
**forward** (in front) – pambili  
**fountain** – mtombo  
**four** – fo, sine, mane  
**fowl** – kuku  
**fracture** (vt) – pula  
**fragrant** – nuka mnandi; nuka muhle  
**fresh** – nyuwan: hayikona madala  
**Friday** – Fraideyi  
**friend** – wetu, ngane, mata  
**fridge** – frij; makaza bokis  
**frighten** – sabisa  
**frock** – rog, dres  
**frog** – iseile  
**front** – nga-pambile  
**fruit** – frut, sitelo, hlamvu  
**frost** – sitwatwa  
**fry** (v) – osa  
**full** – galile  
**fumes** – smoko  
**funeral** – lo ncwabo; tshala  
**furniture** – mpahle ga lo kaya  
**fuse** – fiyos  
**fuse-lighter** – tshisastik  
**future** – skati nga-pambile

## G

- gall** – nyongo  
**gallon** – galoni  
**gamble** (v) – bekelana  
**game** (buck or bird) – nyamazan  
**game** (play) – mdlalo  
**gang**(team) – genge, span  
**goal** – jele, trongo, stokis, jeyil  
**garage** – garaj, galatsh

**garment** – ngubo  
**gas** – smok  
**gate** – sango, geyit  
**gather** – wola, hlanganisa, butela  
**gauge** – geyij, gej  
**gelatine, gelignite** – jalatin  
**gentleman** – nene  
**gently** – gahle  
**German** – Jaliman  
**Germans** – Majaliman  
**Germany** – Kwamajaliman  
**get (v)** – tola  
**get away** – suka  
**get into** – ngena  
**get off** – suka  
**get on** – kwela  
**get out** – puma  
**get up** – vuka, pakama  
**gift** – basela, isipo, nigelo  
**ghost** – spuki, moya  
**gin** – jin  
**girl** – intombi  
**girl (little)** – intombazan  
**give** – niga  
**glass** – glas, nglazi  
**glasses** – maglas; mafestele ga mehlo  
**globe (electric)** – glas ga lo ges  
**glove** – glav, sandla  
**go back** – penduka  
**go in** – ngena  
**go away!** (imperative) – suka!  
**go for walk** – hamba fagash  
**go out** – puma  
**go slow** – libala  
**goat** – mbuzi  
**God** – Nkulunkulu, Tixo, Nkos-pezulu, Modimo  
**gogga** (insect, etc.) – ghogho, nunu, silwanekazane  
**goggles** – mafestele ga mehlo  
**gold** – golide mali  
**golf** – golof  
**gone** – hambile  
**gone bad** – bolile

**gong** – ntsimbi  
**good** – muhle  
**Good Day!** – Sakubona! Molo!  
**Good Mornig!** – Molo!  
**goods** – mpahla  
**goose** – hansi  
**govern** – busa  
**government** – hulumende  
**governor** – umbusi  
**grade (v)** – keta  
**grain** – kolweni, hlamvu  
**grandfather** – babankulu  
**grandmother** – mamekulu  
**grandparent** – koko  
**grasp (v)** – bamba  
**grass** – tshani  
**grasshopper** – ntete, sikonyane  
**grave (n)** – tuna, ncwabo  
**graves** – matuna  
**graveyard** – kwamatuna  
**graze** – klaba  
**graze (put to)** – klabisa  
**grease (n)** – gris, mafuta  
**great** – kulu  
**green (adj)** – luhlaza  
**greetings!** – dumela!  
**grey** – mpunga  
**grief** – sizi  
**grill (v)** – osa  
**grin (v)** – sineka  
**grind (by hand)** – gaya  
**groove** – msele  
**ground, earth** – mhlaba  
**ground nut** – ntongomane  
**grow** – kulu, mila  
**grumble** – kala  
**guard (v)** – basopa, basopisa  
**guava** – gwava  
**guide (n)** – mholi  
**guide (v)** – kombisa  
**guilt** – cala  
**guilty** – kona cala  
**guinea pig** – ginipigi  
**guitar** – kitar  
**gullet** – minzo  
**gulp down** – minza  
**gun** – mbumbulu  
**guns** – mabumbulu  
**gutter** – msele ga lo manzi

# H

**habit** – nkambiso

**hacksaw** – sagha yena juba  
ntsimbi

**hailstones** – matshe; matshe ga  
lo zulu

**hair** – nwele (pl. zinwele)

**hair oil** – mafuta ga lo skop

**half** – haf

**halt** (v) – yima, jama, ema

**hammer** (n) – hamela, sando,  
isando

**hand** (n) – sandla

**handkerchief** (see “hankie”)

**handle** (n) – handel

**handle** (touch) (v) – pata

**handlebars** – zipondo ga lo  
baisikil

**hang up** – jingisa

**hankie** – duk, faduk

**happy** (v) – jabula

**hard** – lukuni stelek

**hard hat** – makalapa, skoko

**harm** (v) – limaza

**harm** (n) – ngozi

**harmonise, harmony** – vuma  
ga mnandi

**harrow** (v) – hlagula

**harvest** (v) – vuna

**harvest** (n) – lo mvuno

**hashish** (see “dagga”)

**hasten** – tshetsha

**hat** – sicoko, skoko, hut

**hatch** – fukamela

**hatchet** – thsapu

**hate** (v) – zonda, enyanya

**hatred** – zondo

**haul** (v) – dons

**have** – kona

**he** – yena, yenadoda

**head** – skop, skanda, ntloko

**headache** – tshisa lapa skop;

ukuwelwa ntloko

**headman of kraal** – numzan,  
induna

**heal** – pilisa, sindisa, pola, polisa

**health** – mpilo

**healthy** – pilile

**hear** – lalela; izwa lo kuluma

**heat** – tshisa

**heart** – hliziyo, intliziyo

**heater** (immersion) – tshisastik

**heaven** – zulu, lozulu

**heavy** – nzima, sinda

**heel** – sitende

**height** – stuba pezulu

**hell** – sihogo; ndawo ga bubi

**help** (v) – siza, helepa

**helper** – msizi

**hemp** (Indian) – insangu

**hem** (v) – peta

**hem** (n) – mpeto

**hen** – kukukazi

**her** – yena, yinakazi

**herd** (v) – alusa

**here** – lapa

**hers** – gayena

**hidden** – fihlile

**hide** (v) – fihla

**hide** (n) – skumba

**high** – pakamile, pezulu

**hill** – ntaba

**him** – yena, yenadoda

**hinder** – vimbela

**hip** – nyonga

**hire** (v) – qasha

**his** – gayena

**hit** (v) – shaya, beta

**hoe** (n) – pek, geje

**hoe** (v) – hlagula

**hog** – ngulube

**hold** (v) – bamba

**hole** – mgodi, bobo

**holiday** – holideyi kufagash

**holy** – ngwele, ngcwele

**home** – kaia

**honest** – qoto

**honey** – uju ga lo nyosi

**honey bee** – nyosi

**hook** – huk

**hooligan** – layita; tsotsi

**hooligans** – amalayita; matsotsi

**hoot** – shaya lo huta

**hope** – temba

**horn** – mpondo

**horse** – hashi

**horseman** – mgibeli  
**hose** (air) – ntambo ga moya  
**hose** (water) – ntambo ga manzi  
**hospital** – spetele, sibedlela  
**hot** – tshisa, shushu  
**hotel** – hotela  
**hour** – auwa  
**house** – ndlu  
**how?** – kanjani? or kunjani?  
**how are you? how goes it?**  
**how's things?** – kanjani?  
**how many?** – mangaki?  
**however** – noko, kodwa  
**how often? how many times?** – mangaki skat?  
**hungry** – lambile  
**hunt** (v) – zingela  
**hunter** – umzingeli  
**hurry** – tshetsha  
**hurt** – buhlungu, limaza  
**husband** – ndoda (pl. madoda)  
**hush!** – tula!  
**hut** – kaia, ndlu, ndluwana

## I

**I** – mina  
**ice** – ayis  
**idolise** – tanda kakulu  
**if** – noko, loskati  
**ignorant** – hayi fundile  
**ill** – gula  
**illuminate** – kanyisa  
**imiate** – fanisa  
**immediately** – konamanje, katesi  
**important** – nzima, pakeme  
**impotent** – hayi mandla  
**in** – pagati  
**inch** – intsh  
**increase** – anda  
**indigestion** – silungulelo  
**infect** – sulela  
**inflate** – futa; faga moya  
**inform** – tshela  
**influenza** – fluyenza, mkuhlane  
**inject** – jova

**injection** – mjovo  
**injure** – limaza  
**injured** – buhlungu, limele  
**inoculate** – jova  
**inoculation** – mjovo  
**insect** – silwanekazane, nunu  
**insert** – ngenisa; faga pagati  
**inside** – pagti  
**insolent** – tshiki  
**insolvent** (see “bankrupt”)  
**inspan** – bopela  
**inspektor** – speketala  
**instantly** – konamanje  
**instruct** – fundisa  
**insult** (v) – tuka  
**intelligent** – hlakanipile  
**into** – pagati  
**inquire** – buza  
**interpreter** – toliki  
**intestine** – tumba  
**intestines** – matumbu  
**intoxicated** – dagiwe  
**invite** – mema  
**iron** (n) – ntsimbi, nsimbi  
**iron** (v) – ayina  
**is** – kona  
**it** – yena, ena  
**itch** – nwaya  
**its** – gayena  
**ivory** – zinyo ga-ndlovu

## J

**jack** – jek  
**jacket** – baitsh  
**jail** – stokis, trongo  
**jam** – jem  
**January** – Januwari  
**jaw** – mhlati  
**jealousy** – umona  
**jelly** – jeli, ntikintiki  
**jerzey** – jezi  
**jigger fleas** – matekini  
**job** – job, msebenzi  
**Johannesburg** – Janasbek, Igoli  
**joint** (vt) – hlanganisa  
**joint** (vi) – hlangana, joyina



**joke** (v) – tekula  
**joke** (n) – hlaya  
**journey** (v) – hamba lapa ndlela  
**journey** (n) – lo hambo  
**joy** – njabulo  
**judge** (n) – ijaji, mgwebi  
**judge** (v) – gweba  
**judgement, conviction** –  
 mgwebo  
**jug** – jag  
**July** – Julayi  
**June** – Juni

## K

**kettle** – ketile, keti  
**key** – ki, slutulelo  
**kick** – kaba, kahlela  
**kill** – bulala  
**kind** (type) – mhlobo  
**kindle** – basa  
**King** – Nkosi  
**kiss** (v) – qabula, anga  
**kitchen** – kishi  
**knee** – dolo  
**kneel** – guqa  
**knife** – mes, nayif  
**knobkerrie** – duka  
**knock** (v) – shaya  
**knock off work** – shayile  
**knot** – not  
**know** – azi, yazi  
**knowledge** – ukwazi  
**kraal** – mzi, kaya

## L

**label** – stikitan  
**labour** (n) – msebenzi  
**labour** (v) – sebenza  
**labourer** – muntu yena sebenza  
**ladder** – lada  
**lady** – inkosikas, inkosikazi  
**lamb** – imvwana

**lamb** (meat) – nyama ga lo  
 mvwana  
**lame** – gwalela  
**lamp** – lampu, lamp  
**land** – mhlabati, lizwe  
**language** – limi  
**last, lastly** – kuqedini  
**late** – lati, leyt  
**later on** – mbaimbai  
**latrine** – boshi  
**laugh** – hlega  
**laughter** – lo hlego  
**law** – mteto (ga lo hulumende)  
**lay** (egg) – zala  
**lay** (table) – deka  
**lay** (down) – bega  
**lazy** – lova  
**lead** (v) – hamba pambili; hola  
**lead** (animals) – kokela  
**lead** (metal) – mtofu  
**leader** – mkokeli, mholi  
**leaf of tobacco** – samba  
**leak** (v) – vuza  
**leak** (n) – ndawo yena vuza  
**learn** – funda  
**learned** – fundile  
**learner** – nyuwan  
**leather** – skumba  
**leave** (abandon) – shiya, yeka  
**leave** (alone) – yeka  
**leave** (go off, away) – hamba, suka  
**leave** (of absence) – lif(u) (ga  
 vakasha)  
**left** (gone) – hambile  
**left** (behind) – shiyile  
**left** (hand side) – leftsayid, lapa  
 kohlo  
**leg** – mlenze  
**lemon** – lamun, lamulo  
**lend** – tsheleka, boleka  
**length** – bude  
**lessen** – bitshanisa  
**let go** – yeka  
**letter** – brif, ncwadi  
**lettuce** – letisi  
**level** (v) – linganisa  
**level** (n) – level  
**level crossing** – koros ga  
 sporo, dlula sporo

**liar** – laya  
**lice** – matwala  
**licence** – mtelo, laisens  
**lid** – deksel  
**lie** (untruth) – manga  
**lie down** – lala  
**life** – kona, izwa  
**lift** (n) – lifi  
**lift** (v) – pakamisa  
**lift** (give a – to) – kwelisa  
**light** (in weight) – lula  
**light** (illumination) (v) – kanya, layita  
**light** (n) – lampu, layit  
**light up** (illuminate) – kanyisa, layita  
**light** (a fire) – basa  
**lightning** – mbane, zulu  
**like** (be fond of) – tanda  
**liken** (v) – fanekisa  
**likeness** – mfanekiso  
**like this** – fana ga lo  
**lime** – kalik  
**line** – layin  
**lip** – debe  
**listen** – lalela, izwa, mamela  
**little** – mbitshan, pikanin  
**litre** – litr  
**live** (v) – pila  
**liver** – (n) – sibindi  
**load** (v) – layisha  
**load** (n) – mtwalo  
**loafer** – lova  
**lock** (v) – kiya  
**locust** – sikonyane  
**long** – mde, mude, longwan  
**long ago, long time** – kade  
**long way** – kude  
**longs** – langwan bruk  
**look at** – buka  
**look out!** – basopa!  
**loosen** – kumula, kulula, yekelela  
**lorry** – lori  
**lose** – lahlega  
**lost** – lahlegile  
**louse** – ntwala  
**love** (v) – tanda  
**love** (n) – lo tando  
**low** – pansi

**lower** (v) – hambisa pansi  
**lucerne** – lusene  
**luggage** – mpahla  
**lukewarm** – tshisa mbitshan; dikidiki  
**lullaby** – mbongo  
**lung** – mpungu  
**lungs** – mapungu, mapapu

## M

**machine** – mtshini  
**machine gun** – sigwagwa  
**mad** – hlanya, hlanyile  
**madam** – misis  
**magic** – tagati  
**magistrate** – majistlet  
**mailbag** – posisaka  
**maize** – mbila  
**make** (v) – enza, aka  
**make right** – lungisa  
**malaria** – mfiva  
**male** – ndoda  
**malingerer** – lova  
**malt** – tombo  
**mamba** – mamba  
**man** – ndoda (pl. madoda)  
**mango** – mengo  
**manure** – manyoro  
**many** – maningi  
**manager** – meneja  
**March** – Matsh  
**mark** (n) – maka  
**mark** (v) – komba  
**married** – ganile, gamile  
**marry** – gana; tata mfazi; shada  
**massage** – hlikihla  
**master** – nkosi, bas  
**matches** – metshs, mentshis  
**mate, pal** – wetu  
**May** – Meyi  
**me** – mina  
**mealies** – (see “maize”)  
**mealie meal** – mpupu  
**measure** (v) – linganisa, bima  
**meat** – nyama  
**medicine, medicament** – muti

**meet** – hlangana  
**memory** – kumbulo  
**men** – madoda  
**mend** (sew) – tunga  
**mend** (repair) – lungisa  
**mess** (v) – mosha; enza doti  
**mess** (n) – doti  
**messenger** – mesenja  
**metre** – mitr  
**midday** – emini  
**middle** – pagati  
**mile** – mayil  
**milk** (n) – melek  
**milk** (v) – senga  
**millet** – mabela  
**million** – milyoni  
**millipede** – shongololo  
**mind** (v) – basopa  
**mine, my** – gamina  
**mine** (surface) – mayin  
**mine** (underground) – mgodi  
**minister** – umfundisi (pl. bafundisi)  
**minute** (time) – miniti  
**mirror** – sibuko  
**mischievous** – inkatazo  
**mislead** – kohlisa  
**miss** (v) – posa  
**missionary** – umfundisi  
**mist** – nkungu  
**mistake** (n) – mistek, mastek  
**mistaken** – posisile  
**mix** – hlanganisa, dibanisa, taka  
**model** (n) – mfanekiso  
**moist** – swakeme  
**moisten** – swakamisa  
**moisture** – mswakama  
**mole** – vukuzi  
**Monday** – Mandeyi  
**money** – mali  
**monkey nuts** – (see “peanuts”)  
**month** – nyanga  
**month** (next) – nyanga ezayo;  
     lo nyanga yena figa  
**month** (last) – lo nyanga yena  
     file; lo nyanga yena pelile  
**monthly** – ngenyanga  
**moon** – nyanga

**moonrise** – pumanyanga  
**more** – futi  
**morning** – ekuseni, kusasa  
**mortar** – daga  
**mortuary** – motshiri; ndlu ga  
     sidumbu  
**mosquito** – nsune  
**moth** – nundu  
**mother** – mame (pl. omame),  
     mama  
**motor** – moto  
**motor car** – motokali  
**motor cycle** – stututut  
**mountain** – ntaba  
**mouse** – impuku, gundwan  
**moustache** – mdevu, devu  
**mouth** – mlomo  
**move** – susa  
**moving** – yena hamba  
**mud** – daga  
**much** – maningi  
**much** (so-) – kangaka  
**much** (too-) – tumatch; maningi  
     kakulu  
**mule** – bongolo  
**muscle** – msipa  
**music** – musiki  
**multiply** – andisa  
**must** – funeka  
**mustn't** – musa  
**mutton** – nyama ga lo-mvu  
**my** – gamina  
**myself** – mina

## N

**nail** – spikiri  
**nail** (of finger) – zipo  
**nail** (v) – fasa nga lo spikiri  
**name** (n) – gama  
**nature** (origin) – mvelo  
**naughty** – gangile  
**near** – duze  
**nearly** – ampur  
**neck** – ntamo  
**needle** – naliti  
**nerve** – muzwa

**nest** – sidleke  
**neuralgia, neuritis** – buhlungu  
     ga muzwa  
**new** – nyuwan  
**news** – indaba  
**newspaper** – nyuzipepa  
**next** (position) – landela  
**next** (time) – ezayo  
**nice** – muhle, mnandi  
**night** – busuku, ebusuku, nayit  
**nightdress** – hembe ga lala  
**nightly** – zonke busuku  
**nine** – nayin  
**nineteen** – nayintin  
**ninety** – nayinti  
**no** – hayikona, hayi  
**no!** – cha!  
**noise** – msindo  
 (make) **noise** – rasa  
**none** – aziko  
**nonsense** – mahala, mfeketo;  
     mbedo  
**noon** – emini  
**nose** – mpumlo  
**not** – hayi, hayikona  
**note** (letter) – ncwadi, brif  
**nothing** – nikis, aziko, ize  
**nothing but** – kupela  
**notice** (n) – notisi, isaziso  
**November** – Novemba  
**novice** – nyuwan  
**now** – manje  
**nowhere** – aziko ndawo  
**number** – namba, nombola  
**nurse** (n) – nesi  
**nut** – noti

## O

**oath** – sifungu  
**oats** – folitsh, habile  
**obey** – lalela  
**obstinate** – kona nkani  
**obtain** – tola  
**ocean** – lwandle  
**October** – Okitoba  
**odour** – amaka, pungu

**of** – ga  
**office** – ofisi, hofisi  
**often** – maningiskat  
**oh!** – yoh!, hau!  
**oil** – oil, mafuta  
**o.k.** – lungile  
**old** – madala, dala  
**on top** – pezulu ku  
**once** – munyeskat  
**one** – wan, munye  
**onion** – anyansi, nswele  
**only** – kupela  
**open** (v) – vula  
**opened** – vuliwe  
**operate, operation** – hlinza  
**or** – noma, mhlambe, noko  
**orange** – olintsh  
**orphan** – ntandane  
**orphanage** – ndlu ga-ntandane  
**ostrich** – intshe  
**other** – lomunye  
**oven** – hovini  
**overcoat** – yas  
**our, ours** – gatina  
**out** – pandle  
**outside** – pandle, ngapandle  
**outspan** (v) – kulula  
**over** – pezulu  
**overalls** – overolo  
**overcome** – hlula  
**overseas** – pesheya (ga lwandle)  
**overtake** – dlula  
**overtime** – hova  
**overturned** – bukukekile  
**owe** – kweleta  
**owl** – wuwu, sikova  
**ox** – nkabi  
**oxygen** – oksijin

## P

**pacify** – tulisa  
**pail** – bakete  
**pain** – buhlungu, ihlaba  
**pain** (acute) – buhlungu stelek  
**paint** (v) – penta  
**paint** (n) – pende

**pal** – wetu  
**pamphlet** – ncwadi  
**pan** – pan  
**pantry** – pandolo  
**papaya, pawpaw** – popo  
**paper** – pepa  
**park** (v) – emisa, yimisa, jamisa  
**parade** – dresa  
**paraffin** – parafin  
**parent** – mzali (pl. mazali)  
**parry** – vika  
**part** (v) – ahluka (nisa)  
**pass** (n) – pas  
**pass** (by, over) – dlula  
**passage** – pesej  
**patch** – petch  
**pay** (v) – batala; koka mali  
**peace** – kutula  
**peach** – pitsh  
**peanuts** – ntongomane  
**peas** – pizi  
**pedal** (a bike) (v) – nyatela  
**pedestrian** – mhambi-ganyawo  
**pen** (writing) – pen  
**pencil** – pensel  
**peninsula** – ingalo  
**penis** – mtondo  
**people** – bantu  
**pepper** – pelepele  
**perfume** – amaka  
**perhaps** – mhlaumbe  
**peril** – ingozi  
**permission** – lo vumelo  
**permit** (v) – vumela  
**permit** (n) – pemet, pas  
**perspiration** – mjuluko  
**perspire** – juluka  
**petrol** – petrol  
**phooey** – po  
**photograph** – foto, mfanekiso  
     sitombe  
**piano** – piyano  
**piccanin** – pikanin  
**pick** (n) – piki  
**pick out** – keta  
**picture** – mfanekiso  
**pie** – pai  
**piece** – pisi  
**piecework** – stokwe

**pig** – ngulube  
**pigeon** – juba  
**pillow** – pilo  
**pin** – pin, speleti  
**pinafore** – pinifo, fasikoti  
**pipe** – payip, peyp; tumbu  
**pipe** (tobacco) – payip ga bema  
**pineapple** – payinapu  
**piston** – piston; mtondo ga lo  
     moto  
**place** (n) – ndawo  
**place** (v) – bega, faga  
**plan** – plen  
**plank** – plank, pulangwe  
**plant** (v) – tshala, lima  
**plant** (n) – planti  
**plate** – pleyit  
**platform** – platfom  
**play** (v) – dlala  
**pleasant** – mnandi  
**please** (v) – jabulisa  
**please** (request) – yabolisa, golisa  
**pleasure** – ntando  
**plenty** – maningi  
**pliers** – playas  
**plough** (v) – lima  
**plough** (n) – geja, plughu  
**plug** – plag  
**pneumatic drill** – madumelan  
**pocket** (n) – paket, paketini,  
     skwam(u)  
**poet** – mbongi  
**point** (v) – komba  
**points** (rail) – pontsh  
**poison** – poyizen, ubuti  
**poisonous** – buhlungu  
**pole** – pal, sibonda  
**police** – poyisa, mapolisa  
**police station** – poyisa steshi  
**police van** – pikap  
**police whistle** (n) – mfingwan  
     ga poyisa  
**poliomyelitis** – polio  
**polish** (n) – polish  
**polish** (v) – polisha  
**poor** – mpofu; aziko mali  
**porridge** – palitshi, putu  
**portrait** – mfanekiso  
**position** – ndawo

**poster** – posta  
**post** – pos  
**post office** – pos hofisi  
**pot** – poti, mbiza  
**potato** – zamban, mazamban  
**pound** (n) – pauwund  
**pound** (for animals) – skiti  
**pour** – tela; gala  
**pour into** – galela  
**pour out, pour away** – cita  
**pour water** – tela manzi  
**powder** – pawuda  
**pray** – tandaza  
**prayer** – lo-mtandazo  
**prefer** – keta  
**pregnant** – miti  
**present** (n) – basela  
**present** (is here) – kona lapa  
**presently** – mbaimbai  
**press** (print, squeeze) – cindezela, nyanzela  
**pressure, power** – stim  
**pretty** – muhle  
**price** – mali; malini? biza? bizwa  
**prison** – jeyil, stokis  
**proboscis** – mboko  
**promise** – tembisa  
**prostitute** – sifebe  
**protect** – vikela, vimba, vimbela  
**puff adder** – ibululu, inyoka  
**pull** (v) – donsaa  
**pulley** (wheel) – puli (wil)  
**pulse** – gazi shaya lapa lo mtambo  
**pump** (n) – pompi  
**pump** (v) – pompa  
**pumpkin** – tanga  
**punch** (tool) – pontshi  
**puncture** – pontsha  
**punctured** – pontshiwe, pontshere  
**punish** – beta  
**punished** – botshwa  
**purple** – inkakala  
**push** – shova  
**put** – bega  
**put in** (v) – faga

## Q

**qualified** – fundile  
**quarrel, argue** – pikisa  
**quarry** – kwari  
**quarter** (¼) – kota  
**quarters** (living) – kaia  
**quench** – cima  
**queen** – nkosikas makulu  
**question** (v) – pikisa, buza  
**question** (n) – mbuzo, ndaba  
**queue** (v) – dresa  
**queue** (n) – dresi  
**quibble** – pika  
**quickly** (be quick) – tshetsha  
**quiet** – tulile  
**quiet!** – tula!  
**quiet!** (emphatic) – tulabo!  
**quiet!** (please) – tulake!

## R

**race** (v) – jaha  
**race** (competing) (n) – mjaho  
**race** (people) – izwe, mhlobo  
**radio** – wayiles, wailisi  
**radish** – redishi  
**rail** (track) – sporo  
**railway** – stimela, loliwe  
**rain** (n) – mvula, kumkum, kamkam  
**rain** (v) – neta  
**rainbow** – tingo-ga-nkosikas  
**raise** (v) – pakamisa  
**rand** (money) – ranti  
**rascal** – skelem  
**rat** – gundwan  
**raw** – hayi vutiwe  
**razor** – reyza; mtshina ga sheva  
**read** (v) – funda  
**ready** – lungile manje  
**reap** – vuna  
**rear light** – lampu ga lo-msila  
**receipt** – risiti  
**recieve** – tola  
**recover** (health) – pila

**recuperate** – pila  
**recuperated** – betele  
**rectify** – lungisa  
**red** – bomvu  
**red light** (or reflector) – stoplayit  
**referee** – referi  
**refuse** (v) – hayi vuma; ala  
**refuse** (n) – doti, mampara  
**regulation(s)** – mteto  
**region** – lizwe, ndawo  
**rejoice** – jabula  
**relation, relative** – mhlobo  
**relax** – tambisa, yeka  
**release** (v) – yeka, kumula  
**religion** – bukolwa  
**remain** (behind) – sala, hlala  
**remember** – kumbula  
**remind** – kumbulisa  
**remove** (v) – susa  
**renew** – vusa futi; qalisa futi  
**repair** – lungisa  
**repeat** (action) – enza futi; pinda  
**repeat** (words) – kuluma futi  
**reply** (v) – sabela, pendula  
**reply** (n) – lo-mpendulo  
**report** (v) – mangala, ripota, bika  
**reptile** – nunu, silwane  
**require** – funa  
**resemble** – fana na  
**respect** – hlonipa  
**rest** – pumula  
**return** – buya  
**reverse** (v) – pendula  
**revolver** – volovolo  
**rib** – mbambo  
**ride** – gibela; kwela ku  
**riem** – ntambo  
**rifle** (n) – sibamu, mbumbulu  
**right** (to be, or do) – lunga  
**right** (in order) – lungile  
**right hand** – sandla sokudla  
**right** (side) – rayitsayid; kunene;  
     lo sayid ga lo nene  
**rigid** – lukuni  
**ring** (n) – ringi  
**ring** (v) – shaya lo klok  
**rinse** – tyula  
**rip** (v) – dabula  
**ripe** – vutiwe

**ripen** – vutwa  
**rise** (n) – pakama; sukuma  
**river** – mfula  
**river imp** – tikelosh, tokolosh  
**rivet** – rivit  
**rinse** – hlambulula  
**road** – ndlela, mgwagwa  
**roar** – duma  
**roast** (v) – osa  
**rob** – tshontsha  
**robber** – lo-mtshontshi  
**robot** – staplayit  
**rock** – litshe (pl. matshe)  
**roll up** – songa  
**roof** – pezulu; pahla  
**rooster** – qude  
**root** – mpande  
**rope** – makulu igoda  
**rot** (v) – bola  
**rotten** – bolile  
**rub** (with hands) – hlikihla  
**rubber** (n) – raba  
**rubbish** – doti, rabish  
**rugby** – ragbi  
**rule** (v) – busa  
**rule** (foot) – rula  
**rules** – mteto  
**rumble** – duma  
**run** (v) – gijima  
**run away** – baleka

## S

**sack** (n) – saka  
**sad** – lusizi  
**saddle** (n) – sadele, sihlalo, sal  
**safe** – sindile  
**safety** – vimbela-ngozi  
**safety device** – fokis  
**safety hat** – makalapa  
**sailor** – matilose  
**salary** – holo, mali  
**sale** – mandala  
**saliva** – mate  
**salt** – sawuti  
**sample** – sampul  
**sand** – santi, mhlabati

**sandwich** – semwhish  
**sandal** – skatula  
**Satan** – Satan  
**Saturday** – Setedeyi  
**sausage** – sositshi  
**save** – sinda, sindisa  
**saviour** – umsindisi  
**saw** (v) – sagha  
**saw** (tool) (n) – sagha  
**say** – kuluma, uti  
**scales** – skali  
**scent** – amaka, pungu  
**school** – skul, skolo  
**scissors** – skere, skele  
**scotch cart** – skotshka  
**scorpion** – fezela  
**scratch** (v) – kweba  
**scream** – kala  
**screw** (n) – sikrufu, skruf  
**screwdriver** – sikrufudraiva  
**scum** – mengulo  
**sea** – lwandle  
**seam** – mpeto  
**seat** – sihlalo, stul  
**secret** – mfihlo  
**secure** – qinile  
**see** – bona  
**seed** – mbewu  
**seek** – funa  
**seem** – bonakala, kungati  
**segregate** – ahlukana, keta  
**seize** – bamba  
**select** (v) – keta  
**sell** – tengisa  
**send** – tuma  
**separate** (v) – hlukanisa  
**September** – Sebutemba  
**septic** – bolile  
**serpent** – nyoka  
**servant** – msebenzi  
**set** (sink) – shona  
**set up** – imisa, yimisa  
**settle** (v) – pelisa  
**settle** (dispute) – gweba  
**seven** – seven, sikombisa  
**seventeen** – seventin  
**seventy** – seventy  
**sew, mend** – tunga  
**shackle** – shekel

**shade** – mtunzi  
**shaft** – shafu  
**shake** – shukuma  
**shadow** – mtunzi  
**shake** (cause to) – shukumisa  
**shall** – zo  
**sharp** – bukali  
**sharpen** – lola  
**shave** (v) – shefa, gunda  
**she** – yena, yenakazi  
**shed** (n) – stolo  
**sheep** – mvu (pl. zimvu); klabu; gusha  
**sheet** – shiti  
**shelf** – shalof  
**shelter** (n) – mzi  
**shepherd** – umalusi  
**shield** (v) – vimbela  
**shield** (n) – into ga vimbela  
**shift** (move) – susa  
**shift** (working) – shif  
**shine** (n) – kanya  
**shine** (v) – kanyisa  
**ship** – stimela ga lo manzi, mkumbi  
**shirt** – hembe  
**shiver** – tutumela  
**shock** – shoko  
**shoe** – skatula  
**shoot** (v) – dubula  
**shop** (n) – venkile  
**short** – fushane, fishan, shot  
**shorts** (pants) – kapudula; fishan bruk  
**shotgun** – sibamu, mbobo  
**shout** – memeza, dazuluka, duma  
**shovel** (n) – foshol  
**shovel** (v) – layisha  
**show** (v) – bonisa, kombisa  
**shunt** – shendela  
**shut** (v) – vala  
**shut up!** – tula!  
**shrink** – figa pikanin; shwabana  
**sick** – gula  
**sickle** – sikele  
**sidewalk** – ndlela ganyawo  
**side** (on this-) – nganeno  
**sieve** (n) – sefu  
**sift** – seva



**silence!** (emphatic) – tulabo!  
**silence!** (please) – tulake!  
**silencer** – into yena tulisa  
**silver** – silva  
**silver coins** – mhlope mali  
**similar, alike** – fana na  
**sin** (n) – sono  
**sin** (v) – enza sono  
**sing** – hlabela, hlabelela  
**sink** (v) – shona  
**sir** – nkos  
**sister** – sistela, dade, dadewetu  
**sit** – hlala  
**six** – sikis, situpa  
**sixteen** – sikistin  
**sixty** – sikisti  
**sjambok** – mvubu  
**skin** (v) – hlinza  
**skin** (n) – skumba  
**skip** (n) – skip  
**skokiaan** – skokian  
**sky** – zulu, lozulu  
**slacken** – yekelela  
**slaughter** (animals) – hlaba  
**sleep** – lala  
**sleeper** (railway) – slipisi  
**sleepy** – funa lala  
**slow** – gantsani, gahle  
**slow** (very) – gantsani kakulu  
**small** – pikanin  
**smallpox** – ngakaka  
**smash** (v) – bulala  
**smash** (n) – smesh, ngozi  
**smell** (n) – nuka, amaka, pungu  
**smile** – mamatheka  
**smoke** (n) – musu, ntutu  
**smoke tobacco, take snuff** – bema  
**snake** – nyoka  
**sneeze** – timula  
**snow** (v) – kitika, kapoko  
**snuff** (n) – gwayi  
**so much** – kangaka  
**soak** (v) – netisa  
**soap** – sepu, sipu, tsepu  
**sober** – hayi dagiwe  
**soccer** – futbol  
**socks** – sokis ganyawo  
**soft** – tambile

**soften** – tambisa  
**soil** (n) – mhlaba  
**soldier** – soldati  
**some** – munye  
**somebody** – munye muntu  
**someday** – munye langa  
**something** – uto; munye into  
**sometime** – munyeskat  
**somewhere** – munye ndawo  
**song** – gama, hubo  
**soon** – manjemanje  
**soot** – mula  
**sore** – buhlungu  
**sore** (n) – silondo  
**sorrow** (n) – sizi  
**sorrowful** – dabukile  
**sorry** – sori  
**sort out, select** – keta  
**soul** – moya, mpefumulo, tunzi, hliziyo, idlozi  
**sound** (n) – msindo  
**sorghum, millet** – mabela  
**soup** – sobo, sopo  
**South** – Sauwt, Ningizimu  
**spanner** – spanela  
**spare part** – sipere, munye pisi  
**spark** – nhlansi  
**speak** – kuluma  
**special pass** – speshel  
**speed, velocity** – tshetshaskati  
**spend** – kipa mali  
**spider** – lembu, cabu  
**spinach** – spinish  
**spine** – mhlandla  
**spirit** – moya, tunzi, hliziyo  
**spirits** – spiriti  
**spit** (v) – pimisa; pumisa mate, kafula  
**spittle** – mate  
**splice** – tunga  
**splint** (n) – plank  
**spoon** – spun, lip'1  
**spoor** – mkondo  
**sport** – imidlalo  
**spot** (place) (n) – ndawo  
**sprag** – sprag  
**spring** (n) – springi  
**Spring** – Ntlokohlaza  
**square** – skwele

**squeak** – kala  
**squeeze** – kama cinezela  
**squeeze out** – kama  
**stable** (n) – stebel  
**stalk** (n) – stik  
**stand** (v) – yima  
**stand** (cause to) – yimisa  
**stand up** – sukuma, pakama  
**stairs** – stes  
**stamp** (postage) – sitampu  
**star** – kanyezi  
**start** – qala  
**station** (n) – steshi  
**stay** (v) – hlala, sala  
**steal** – tshontsha  
**steel** – ntsimbi, nsimbi  
**stench** – ufuta  
**stick** (n) – duku  
**stiff** – lukuni  
**still(ed)** – tulile  
**sting** (v) – luma  
**stink** – nuka; pungu mubi  
**stomach** – sisu  
**stone** (n) – litshe (pl. matshe)  
**stop** (end) – pela  
**stop** (stay) – yima, jama  
**stop** (v) – imisa  
**stopper** – sivalo; lo valo; propi  
**store** (n) – stolo  
**storm** – sipapo  
**story** – mlando  
**stove** – stofu  
**straight** – streyit  
**stranger** – umfokazi  
**stray** (v) – duka  
**strayed** – dukile  
**street** – stalidi, istrata  
**strength** – mandla  
**stretch** – nweba  
**stretcher** – stretsha  
**strike** – beta, shaya  
**string** – ntambo  
**stroll** – fagash  
**strong** – stelek; kona mandla  
**stupid** – spukupuk, situta  
**subdue** – dambisa  
**submerge** – tshona  
**subside** – damba  
**subtract** – susa

**suck** – munca, anya  
**suckle** – ncela, ncelisa, anya  
**sudden** – zumayo  
**sugar** – shuga, shukela  
**suggest** – kabangisa  
**Summer** – Ihlobo  
**sump** – sampu  
**sun** – langa  
**Sunday** – Sandeyi, Sonto  
**sunrise** – pumalanga  
**sunset** – shonalanga  
**supervisor** – fokisi  
**supper** – dina, sapa  
**suppose** – kabanga  
**surely** – nyanis  
**surpass** – dlula  
**surprise** (v) – mangalisa, zuma  
**surveyor** – saveya, mkopoli  
**swallow** (v) – ginya  
**swear** – funga, tuka  
**sweat** (v) – juluka  
**sweat** (n) – mjuluko  
**sweep** (v) – shanyela  
**sweet** (adj) – mnandi  
**sweets** (n) – switi, svits  
**swell** (v) – dumba  
**swim** – hlamba  
**switch** (elec) – switsh  
**switch** (rail) – pontsh  
**swollen** – dumbile  
**syringe** – sirinji

## T

**table** – taful  
**tablecloth** – tafulduk  
**take** – tata  
**tail** (n) – msila  
**tail light** – lampu ga lo-msila  
**tailor** – mtungi  
**take** – tata, bamba  
**take in** – ngenisa  
**take care** – basopa  
**take out** – pumisa, kipa  
**take this!** – ina!  
**talk** – kuluma  
**tall** – mde, mude

**tame** (v) – tambisa  
**tamed** – tambile  
**tank** – tenk  
**task** – msebenzi, stokwe  
**taste** (v) – nambita  
**taxi** – tekisi  
**tea** – ti, tiyi, tiye  
**teach** – fundisa, kombisa  
**teacher** – tisha; unfundisi (pl. bafundisi)  
**team** – span, genge  
**teapot** – tipoti  
**tear, rip** (v) – dabula  
**tears** (weeping) – nyembezi  
**tease** – tikameza, kataza  
**teaspoon** – tispun  
**teat, udder** – mbele  
**telephone** – telefomo  
**telephone** (v) – shaya lo telefomo  
**tell** – tshela  
**tell tales** – mangala  
**ten** – ten, shumi  
**tennis** – tenis  
**tepid** – dikidiki; tshisa mbitshan  
**terrify** – sabisa; nunusa  
**test** (v) – linga  
**textbook** – buk ga lo fundisa  
**thank, thanks** – bonga, danke  
**that** (person or thing) – yena  
**that** (conjunction) – ukuba, ukuti, kona  
**their, theirs** – gayenazonke  
**them** – yenazonke  
**then** (at that time) – galesoskati  
**there** – lapa  
**there!** (indicating) – nanku!, nantsi!  
**they** – yenazonke  
**thief** – sela; muntu yena tshontsha; mtshontshi (pl. batshontshi)  
**thigh** – tanga  
**thin, malnourished** – zacile  
**thing** – into, yinto  
**think** – kabanga  
**thirst** (v) – oma  
**thirsty** – funa puza  
**thirteen** – tetin  
**thirty** – teti

**this** – diswan  
**thong** – ntambo  
**thoroughly** – mpela, stelek  
**thorn** – iva  
**though** – kodwa  
**thought** (n) – mkabango  
**thousand** – tausend; kalungwan  
**thousand-legs** – shongololo  
**threaten** – sabisa  
**three** – tri, matatu  
**thrice** – matatuskat  
**throat** – minzo, mpimbo  
**through** – pagati  
**throw** – ponsa, posa  
**thumb** – situpa  
**thunder** – duma, duduma  
**Thursday** – Tersdeyi  
**tick** (insect) – kaza, kazane  
**tickle** – kitakita  
**tiger** – ingwe  
**timber** – timba  
**time** – skati  
**time** (clock) – skati ka  
**tin** – tini  
**tire** (v) – dina, dinisa  
**tired** – diniwe, katele  
**to** – lapa  
**toad** – selesele  
**tobacco** – gwayi  
**today** – namhla, namuhla  
**toe** – swane  
**toenail** – zipo  
**together** – kanyekanye  
**tomorrow** – ngomso  
**tomorrow morning** – kusasa  
**tonight** – ebusuku; namhla busuku  
**tongue** – limi  
**too** (also) – futi  
**tooth** – zinyo  
**torch** – totsh  
**tortoise** – fudu  
**touch** (v) – pata, tinta  
**tough** – lukuni  
**tour** (v) – hamba izwe  
**towel** – tawul  
**town** – dolop, tauwin  
**track** (path) – ndlela ganyawo  
**track** (rail) – sporo

**tractor** – treka; ganda-ganda  
**trailer** – msila  
**train** (railway) – stimela treyin  
**train** (v) – fundisa  
**transfer** (v) – tshintsha  
**trap** (v) – tiya  
**trap, snare** (n) – lo tiyo  
**travel** (v) – hamba izwe  
**tread on** (v) – nyatela  
**tree** – umuti, mti  
**tremble** – tutumela  
**trench** – mgero  
**trial** (by law) – cala  
**tribal dance** – shongololo  
**tribe** – mhlobo  
**trot** (horse) – quqa  
**troublesome** – katazile  
**trousers** – brukwe  
**truck** (n) – troko  
**true** – nyanis, qinisile  
**true** (emphatically) – nyanis mpela  
**truth** – nyaniso  
**truth** (the whole) – nyanis kupela  
**try** (by law) – teta  
**try** (attempt) – linga  
**tube** – tumbu  
**tuberculosis** – tebekelosis  
**Tuesday** – Tiusdeyi  
**tune** – ivumo  
**tunnel** – tonel  
**turkey** – kalukuni  
**turn** (v) – pendula, penduka, jiga  
**tusk** – zinyo ga lo-ndlovu  
**twelve** – twelof  
**twenty** – twenti  
**twice** – mabiliskat  
**two** – tu, mabili

## U

**udder** – mbele  
**ugly** – mubi, bubi  
**uncle** – malume  
**uniform** – yunifom  
**umbrella** – sambulela  
**underground** – pansi, mgodini  
**understand** – qonda

**undo** – kumula  
**unite** – hlangana  
**unload** – etula, kipa  
**until** – kude  
**unwell** – gula  
**untie** – kumula, kulula  
**unwilling** – ala, hayi vuma  
**up** – pezulu  
**upset** – wisa  
**urinate** – tunda, shobinga, cama  
**urine** – lo tundo, lo-mshobingo  
**us** – tina  
**use** (v) – sebenzisa; sebenza nga

## V

**valve** – velv  
**vein** – mtambo ga lo bluwan gazi  
**veld** – indle, sikota  
**venison** – nyamazan, nyamakazi  
**vermin** – silwanyana  
**very** – stelek, kakulu, mpela  
**vest** – vest; sokis ga lo-mzimba  
**vex** – kataza, hlupa  
**vicinity** – duze  
**vigour** – sibindi  
**violet** (adj) – inkakala  
**visible** – bonakile  
**visit** (v) – fagash, vakasha  
**vitamin** – vitamini  
**voice** – izwi  
**volunteer** – volontiya, skomdere  
**vomit** – hlanza

## W

**wade** – dada  
**wage** – holo, mali  
**wagon** – ngola, wegon  
**wagtail** (bird) – mvemve  
**wait for** – linda  
**wake** (vt) – vusa  
**wake up** (vi) – vuka  
**walk** (v) – hamba  
**walk** (stroll) – hamba fagash

**wall** – wol  
**want** – funa  
**warm** – tshisa-mbitshan  
**warn, alarm** – basopisa  
**wash** (v) – geza, washa  
**washgirl** – washgel  
**washrag** – faduk  
**waste** (v) – mosha  
**waste material** – mampara  
**watch** (v) – buka, basopa  
**watch** (n) – watsh  
**water** (n) – manzi  
**water** (v) – nisela, tela  
**water animals** – puzisa  
**water hose** – tumbu ga lo manzi  
**way** – ndlela  
**we** – tina  
**weak** – hayikona stim  
**wealthy** – notile  
**wear** – faga  
**weary** – diniwe  
**weather** – moya, zulu  
**wedding** – mshado  
**wedge** – wej  
**Wednesday** – Wensdeyi  
**weeds** – ukula  
**week** – wik, sonto  
**weep** – lila  
**weigh** – skala; faga skala  
**weight, mass** – skali, sindo, nzima  
**well** (better) – pilile  
**well** (be) – pila  
**well** (properly or thoroughly) – muhle  
**West** – Shonalanga  
**wet** – kona manzi  
**what** – ini  
**what is?** – ini? yini?  
**what is it?** – yintoni?  
**what's the matter?** – yinindaba?  
**what thing is this?** – yintoni?  
**what do you want?** – (u)funani?  
**wheat** – kolweni  
**wheel** (n) – vil, wil, sondo  
**wheelbarrow** – wilibero  
**when** – loskati, uma

**when?** – ipiskati?  
**where** – upi  
**where?** – upi? ipi?  
**which** – ini  
**which?** – yini?  
**whip** (n) – swepu  
**whiskers** – silevu  
**whistle** (n) – mpempe, mfingwan  
**whistle** (v) – shaya mpempe; shaya lo-mfingwan  
**white** – mhlope  
**White** (person) – Mlungu  
**White People** – Abelungu  
**whiz** (as bullet) – tshwi  
**who, whom** – yena  
**who? whom?** – ubani  
**who is? what is?** – bani?  
**why?** – yinindaba?  
**wick** – ntambo ga lo layit  
**wide** – banzi  
**wife** – mfazi (pl. bafazi)  
**wild** – sendle; hayi tambile  
**will, shall** (v) – zo; azi  
**win** – hlula  
**wind** (n) – moya  
**wine** – wayin  
**windmill** – windmil; mashin ga lo moya  
**window** – festele  
**windscreen wiper** – into yena sula lo glas  
**wing** (n) – piko  
**Winter** – Busika  
**wipe** – sula  
**wire** – waia, cingo  
**wire** (elec) – waia ga lo ges  
**wireless** – wailisi  
**wire mesh** – sefdrat  
**wisdom** – hlakanipa  
**wise, clever** – hlakanipile  
**wish** – fisa; funa  
**witchdoctor** (diviner) – insangoma; inyanga  
**with** – na  
**within** – pagati ku  
**without** (outside) – ngapandle  
**witness** (v) – bona  
**witness** (n) – bone; fakaz  
**woman** – mfazi (pl. bafazi)

**woo** – shela  
**wood** – nkuni  
**wood** (forest) – hlati  
**word** – izwi  
**work** (v) – sebenza  
**work** (n) – msebenzi  
**work** (knock off) – shayisa  
**work** (finished) – shayile  
**world, earth** – mhlaba  
**worm** (n) – msundu  
**worms** (parasitic) – izilo  
**worry** (v) – kataza  
**wound** (v) – limaza  
**wound** (n) – inxeba  
**wounded** – limele  
**wrap up** – songa  
**wring** – kama  
**wrist** – sihlakala  
**write** – bala, loba  
**writer** – mbali  
**wrong** – hayikona lungile

## X

**Xhosa** – Xosa, Xhosa  
**xylophone** – zimbila, zimbira,  
 mbira

## Y

**yawn** (and stretch) – zamula  
**year** – lo nyaka  
**yeast** – yisti  
**yellow** – mpofu  
**yelp** – konkota  
**yes** – ya, yebo, ehe, ewe  
**yesterday** – izolo  
**yet** – manje  
**yoke** (v) – bopela  
**yonder** – lapaya  
**you** (singular) – wena  
**you** (plural) – nina, wenazonke  
**you** (emphatic) – webo  
**young** – ncane, ntsha, pikanin  
**youngster** – mfan  
**your, yours** – gawena  
**your, yours** (pl) – ganina,  
 gawenazonke

## Z

**Zulu** – Zulu  
**Zulu people** – Amazulu  
**Zulu person** – Mzulu  
**Zululand** – Kwazulu, Kwama-  
 zulu

## 33 Fanagalo – English Dictionary

**Note:** As the irregular plurals of certain Fanagalo nouns have already been given in the English-Fanagalo section of the dictionary, they are – with one or two exceptions – not repeated here.

### A

**Abantsundu** – Bantu (literally “Brown People”)  
**Abelungu** – White People  
**Agosi** – August  
**ahluka** – divide; part or differ from  
**ahlukanisa** – divorce, segregate, separate  
**aka** – build, make, erect  
**ala** – decline (refuse); be unwilling  
**alakoli** – alcohol  
**alusa** (v) – herd, tend, watch  
**amaka** – perfume, odour  
**amalayita** – hooligans, gangs  
**amanga** – lies, fabrications  
**amazolo** – dew  
**Amazulu** – Zulu people, tribe or nation  
**ambulens** – ambulance  
**ampur** – almost  
**anda** – increase, expand, extend  
**andisa** – multiply; exaggerate  
**andiva** – deaf  
**anga** – kiss (v)  
**anya** – suck  
**anyansi** – onion  
**anyisa** – suckle, nurse  
**apele, apul** – apple  
**atsh!** – exclamation of disapproval.  
**au!** – exclamation of wonderment  
**ayi, hayi** – no, not  
**auwa** – hour  
**ayina** – iron (v)  
**ayis** – ice  
**azi** – know; can; will, shall, able  
**aziko** – none, nothing

### B

**baba** – father  
**babankulu** – grandfather  
**babaton** – barberton (strong, illicit brew)  
**babayo** – bitter  
**babili** – both  
**baf** – bath (n)  
**bafan** – boys  
**bafazi** – wives, women  
**baibel** – bible  
**baimbai** – (see **mbaimbai**)  
**baisikil** – bicycle  
**baitsh** – jacket, coat  
**bakela** – fist  
**bakete** – bucket, pail  
**bala** – count, reckon, calculate, mark, write  
**bala setifiket** – certify  
**baleka** – run, flee  
**balekisa** – chase away  
**bamba** – catch; hold; arrest; seize, grasp  
**bambana** – embrace  
**banan(a)** – banana  
**bande, banti** – belt, strap, band  
**bande ga lo-ngalo** – armband, bangle  
**bandit** – convict (n)  
**bangi** – bank (commercial)  
**baniz?** – who is? what is?  
**banjwa, boshwa** – prisoner, convict  
**banoyi** – aeroplane  
**banzi** – wide, broad  
**Bantu** – Bantu  
**bantu** – people, persons

- bantwana** – children  
**bas, basi** – boss, master  
**basa** – kindle (light), fire  
**basebenzi** – workmen  
**basela** – gift, bonsella, present  
**basboy** – bossboy  
**basi, bas** – bus  
**baskete** – basket  
**basopa** – guard, take care  
**basopa!** – look out!  
**basopisa** – alarm, warn  
**batala** – pay (v)  
**batata** – sweet potato  
**Bayete!** – Hail! (to chief or king)  
**bayiskopu** – bioscope, cinema  
**baza** – carve (v)  
**bebi** – baby  
**bega** – put, place (on), set, lay  
**bej** – badge, medal  
**bejane** – rhinoceros  
**bekelana** – gamble  
**bele** – kafircorn  
**bema** – smoke (v), take snuff  
**bendej** – bandage  
**bering** – bushing  
**bero, bele** – bale (n)  
**beta** (v) – beat, strike, punish,  
     hit, assault  
**beteri** – battery  
**bi** – ugly, bad, evil (see also **mubi**)  
**bibi** – mongoose, meercat  
**bika** – announce, report (v)  
**bila** – is boiling (vi), fermenting  
**bilisa** – boil (vt)  
**bima** – measure (v)  
**binda** – choke (v)  
**bitilude** – beetroot  
**bitshanisa** – decrease, lessen  
**biza** – call, summon, ask for  
**bizi** – busy  
**blukwe** – (see **brukwe**)  
**bluwan** – blue  
**bobo** – hole  
**bobojan** (spanela) – pipe  
     wrench, monkey wrench  
**bodi** – board (n), blackboard  
**bodla** – belch  
**bodlela** – bottle (n)  
**bokis, bokisi** – box (n)
- boko, mboko** – trunk,  
     proboscis, chimney top  
**bola** – rot, decompose  
**boleka** – borrow; lend  
**bolile** – rotten, septic, putrid  
**bomvu** – red  
**bona** – see, perceive, behold  
**bonakile** – visible  
**bonas** – bonus  
**bondela** – bundle (n)  
**bongile** – thankful  
**bonisa** – show, point out  
**bonga** – thank, thanks; praise; roar  
**bonela** – burner  
**bonisana** – consult  
**bongolo** – donkey, mule  
**bontshis** – beans  
**bopa** – bind, tie, fasten  
**bopela** (v) – inspan, yoke,  
     saddle, harness  
**bora** – bore  
**bosha** – defecate  
**boshi** – latrine, toilet, W.C  
**botela** – butter  
**Botswana** – Botswana  
**brek, breyik** – brake (n)  
**brendi** – brandy  
**brif** – letter; written note  
**bruda** – brother  
**brukwe** – trousers  
**bubesi** – lion  
**bubi** – (see **mubi**)  
**budala** – age  
**bude** – length  
**bude pezulu** – height  
**buhlalu** – beads  
**buhlungu** – sore, hurt, injured,  
     poisonous, pain  
**buhlungu ga muzwa** –  
     neuralgia, neuritis  
**buk** – book (n)  
**buka** – look at, watch; admire;  
     take care of  
**bukali** – sharp  
**bukolwa** – religion  
**bukukekile** – overturned  
**bulala** – break, kill  
**bulalayo** – deadly  
**bulaleka** – be injured, exhausted



**bulughwe** – bridge (n)  
**bululu** – (see **bruda**)  
**buna** – wither, fade, wilt, droop  
**bundu** – bush country  
**bunga** – meet in council  
**bungane** – beetle  
**busa** – govern  
**busha, butsha** – butcher (n)  
**Busika** – Winter  
**busisa** – bless  
**buso** – face (n)  
**busuku** – night  
**buta** – collect, congregate, come together  
**butela** – bring together, gather  
**butundu** – blunt  
**buya** – return, come back, go back  
**buyisa** – bring back; send back; restore, repay  
**buza** – question, interrogate, examine, investigate, enquire, ask  
**Bwana** – Master (in South-East Africa)

## C

**cabanga** – (see **kabanga**)  
**cabu** – spider  
**cala** – trial (by law); guilt  
**cama** – urinate  
**cela** – beg  
**cha!** – no! certainly not!  
**cima** – extinguish, quench  
**cinezela, kama** – squeeze; print, press; oppress  
**cingo** – (see **waia**)  
**cita** – pour out, pour away  
**cobela** – charge up (for blasting)

## D

**dabuka** – burst, give way; part; hive off, crack  
**dabuka** – sorrow, be grieved  
**dabukile** – sorrowful

**dabula** – tear, rip  
**dada** – wade, float  
**dade** – sister  
**dademina** – my sister  
**dadewena** – your sister  
**dadewobaba** – aunt (paternal)  
**daga** – mud, mortar, dirt  
**dagiwe** – drunk, intoxicated  
**dala** (adj) – old, aged  
**dala** (v) – create, originate, make  
**dam** – dam (n)  
**damba** – subside (river, swelling, emotions)  
**dambisa** (v) – subdue, calm  
**danke** – thanks, thank you  
**dans** – dance (n)  
**dansa** – dance (v)  
**dayimani** – diamond  
**dazuluka** (v) – shout, scream  
**debe** – lip  
**deka** – lay table  
**deksel** – lid  
**delef** (n) – drift, ford  
**deri** – dairy  
**desiki** – desk  
**devu** – moustache  
**dibanisa** – mix, join, collect  
**dikidiki** – lukewarm, tepid  
**dina** – dinner  
**dina, dinisa** – tire, be irksome  
**diniwe** – tired  
**Disemba** – December  
**diswan** – this  
**diza** – fly (v)  
**dlabantu** – cannibal  
**dlala** (v) – play, sport, joke  
**dlala nga bakela** – boxing  
**dlalisa** – amuse  
**dlova** – spoil, make havoc  
**dlula** – pass (by, over), overtake; surpass, excel  
**dlulamiti** – giraffe  
**dlulayo** – better (in health)  
**doba** (v) – fish, angle  
**dokotela** – doctor (n)  
**dolo** – knee  
**dolop** – town  
**donga** – donga; embankment; ravine

**donki** – donkey  
**donsa** – pull, haul  
**dopi** – detonator  
**doti** – dirty; rubbish  
**draiva** – driver  
**dres** – dress, frock  
**dresa** – parade  
**dresi** – queue  
**drom** – drum (machinery)  
**dubula** – shoot, fire (v), bang  
**duduma** – thunder, rumble, explosion  
**duduza** – console, comfort  
**duka** (v) – stray; wander off and get lost; disappear  
**dukile** – strayed  
**dukisa** – bewilder; conceal  
**duk** – cloth, handkerchief  
**duku** – stick, club, knobkerrie  
**duma** – thunder, roar, shout  
**dumba** – swell (v)  
**dumbu** – carcass  
**dumbile** – swollen  
**dumela** – become famous  
**dumela!** – greetings!  
**dumisa** – praise, extol  
**dura, dula** – dear (in price)  
**duze** – close to, near; vicinity  
**duze ku** – beside  
**dweba** – draw a line, make a drawing

## E

**ebusuku** – (at) night  
**egzos** (payip) – exhaust (pipe)  
**ehe** – yes  
**ehla** – climb down, descend  
**ekis** – egg(s)  
**ekuseni** – morning, a.m.  
**ema** – halt  
**emini** – midday, noon  
**emisa** – park (v)  
**emti** – empty  
**emva, muva** – behind; after; backwards  
**ena, yena** – he, she, it

**enana** – exchange (v)  
**enyanya** – hate, dislike, be nauseated by  
**enza** – make, do, perform  
**enza doti** – mess (v)  
**enza futi** – continue  
**eplon** – apron  
**Epril** – April  
**esid** – acid  
**etula** – unload  
**evelopu** – envelope  
**ewe** – yes  
**eyit** – eight  
**ezayo** – next (in time)

## F

**Faduk** – washrag, dishcloth  
**faga** – put in (on, among)  
**faga** – wear  
**faga moya** – inflate  
**faga pagati** – insert  
**faga skala** – weigh  
**fagash** – stroll, visit  
**faji** – barrel, vat  
**fayil** – file (n)  
**fakaz** – witness (n)  
**fakaza** – give evidence  
**fakazi** – evidence  
**fam, palas** – farm (n)  
**fana** – alike  
**fana ga lo** – like this  
**fana na** – resemble  
**fanekisa** (v) – liken  
**fanisa** – imitate, copy  
**fasa** – fasten, couple (v)  
**fayif** – five  
**fazi** – (see **mfazi**)  
**febe** – prostitute  
**Febuwari** – February  
**fektri** – factory  
**fen** – fan  
**fenbelt** – fanbelt  
**festele** – window  
**festele ga mehlo** – goggles  
**festeyid** – first-aid  
**festklas** – first-class

**fezela** – scorpion  
**figa** – come, arrive  
**figisa** – bring, fetch  
**fihla** – conceal, hide, bury  
**fihlile** – hidden  
**file** – dead, broken  
**filiji** – mouth organ  
**filum** – film  
**fisa** – desire, covet, wish  
**fish** – fish (n)  
**fishpleyit** – fishplate  
**fita** – fitter  
**fiti** – feet (measure)  
**fiva** – fever  
**fiyos** – fuse (n)  
**flaimashin** – aeroplane  
**flauwa** – (see **fulawa**)  
**flenj** – flange  
**fo** – four  
**foda** – fodder  
**folitsh** – forage, oats  
**foloman** – foreman  
**fokis** – safety device; detective  
**fokisi** – labour supervisor  
**fokis tsheyin** – safety chain  
**foroko** – fork  
**foshol** – shovel, spade  
**frij** – fridge  
**fudu** – tortoise  
**fukamela** – hatch eggs  
**fulawa** – flower (n); flour  
**funa** – want, seek, desire,  
     search for, wish  
**funa lala** – sleepy  
**funani?** – what do you want?  
**funa puza** – thirsty  
**funda** – learn, read  
**fundayo** – learner  
**fundile** – learned, qualified  
**fundisa** – teach, instruct; train  
**funeka** – must  
**funga** – swear by, invoke, take  
     an oath  
**fushane, fishan** – short, brief  
**fut** – foot (12")  
**futa** – inflate  
**futbol** – soccer, football

**futi** – again, more, also, extra,  
     often  
**fuya** (v) – breed (stock); get in-  
     terest; tame  
**fuyile** – tame

## G

**ga** – of  
**gaba, gabaza** – brag be vain  
**gahle** – gently, carefully, nicely,  
     well, steadily  
**gala** – pour  
**galatsh, garaj** – garage  
**galela** – pour (into, out)  
**galesoskati** – then, at that time  
**galoni** – gallon  
**gama** – name, kind, sort; letter  
     of alphabet  
**gama, gamu** – song  
**gamina** – my, mine  
**gana** – marry, betroth  
**gancani** – (see **gantsani**)  
**ganda-ganda** – tractor  
**gangile** – naughty  
**ganile** – married  
**gantsani** – slow  
**gangani!** – how?  
**ganina** – yours (pl)  
**ganlayit** – cigarette lighter  
**ganyawo** – on foot  
**gatina** – our, ours  
**gaula, gawila** – chop(v)  
**gawena** – you, yours  
**gawenazonke** – your(s) (pl)  
**gayena** – his, hers, its  
**gayenazonke** – theirs  
**gaya** – grind (by hand), crush  
**gazi** – blood  
**gaja** – plough (n)  
**geje** – hoe (n)  
**genge** – gang  
**ges** – electricity, current, power  
**geyij** – gauge  
**geyit** – gate  
**geza** – wash (v)  
**geza lo-mzimba** (v) – bath,  
     shower

**ghogho** – gogga, insect, etc  
**gibela** (v) – mount, climb,  
 board, ride  
**gijima** – run, running  
**ginipigi** – guinea pig  
**ginya** – swallow (v)  
**glas** – glass  
**glas ga lo layit** – globe (elec)  
**glav** – glove  
**goba** (v) – bend (down), bow,  
 twist  
**gobile, gobekile** – bent,  
 crooked  
**goda** – excavate, dig  
**gogo** – thin, dried up person or  
 thing  
**golide mali** – gold  
**golisa** – please  
**golof** – golf  
**gufa, ukufa** – death  
**gula** – sick, ill; moan, groan  
**gulisa** – make ill  
**gunda** – shave, shear  
**gundwan** – rat, mouse  
**guqa** – kneel  
**guqisa** – knee-halter (v)  
**gwala** – coward  
**gwalela** – lame  
**gwalile** – full  
**gwalisa** – fill  
**gwava** – guava  
**gwayi** – tobacco, snuff  
**gweba** – give a ruling; judge,  
 decide, convict  
**gwalile, gwele** – full  
**gwinca** – choke (v)

## H

**habile** – oats  
**haf** – half  
**hamba** – go, walk, travel; depart  
**hamba bo!** – go, man!  
**hamba gahle** – goodbye  
**hamba izwe** – tour, travel  
**hamba tata** – fetch  
**hambile** – left, gone

**hambisa** (v) – cause to go, send  
 on; promote, circulate  
**hamela** – hammer (n)  
**handel** – handle  
**handred** – hundred  
**hansi** – goose  
**hara, hark** – rake  
**hashi** – horse  
**hau!** – heavens!, goodness!  
**hayi** – no, not  
**hayi!** – oh!  
**hayibona** – don't see  
**hayi dagiwe** – sober  
**hayifuna** – don't want  
**hayikona** – no, don't, not  
**hayi kuluma** – dumb  
**hayi tambile** – wild  
**hayitanda** – dislike (v)  
**hayi vuma** – unwilling  
**hayiyazi** – don't know; cannot  
**hembe** – shirt  
**hembe ga lala** – nightdress  
**hlaba** – slaughter (stock); pierce,  
 stab, prick; hurt feelings  
**hlabela, hlabelela** – sing  
**hlakanipa** – smart, shrewd,  
 clever, wise; skulful, bold,  
 enterprising; far-seeing  
**hlakanipile** – wise, clever,  
 intelligent  
**hlagula** (v) – hoe, harrow  
**hlala** – sit, stay, dwell, live  
**hlalisa** – settle, pacify  
**hlamba** – swim, bathe  
**hlambulula** – rinse  
**hlamvana** – twig, leaf  
**hlamvu** – bullet; coin; seed  
**hlane** – desert (n)  
**hlangana** – unite; meet, assem-  
 ble, join; agree with  
**hlanganana** – meet; copulate  
**hlanganisa** – gather, count,  
 add  
**hlanu** – five  
**hlanya, hlanyile** – mad  
**hlanza** – vomit, cleanse, purify  
**hlati** – forest  
**hlaya** – joke (n)  
**hlebelala** – sing

**hlega** – laugh  
**hlegisa** – amuse  
**hlela** – edit, arrange  
**hlikihla** – massage (v)  
**hlinza** – skin, flay; slaughter;  
     surgical operation  
**hlinza** – cheat, defraud  
**hlobo** – type, kind  
**hlombe** – shoulder  
**hloni** – shame, modesty,  
     bashfulness  
**hlonipa** – respect (v)  
**hlula** – win, conquer, overcome  
**hlupa** – annoy, afflict, worry  
**hlupeka** – experience hardship,  
     trouble  
**hlupekile** – afflicted  
**hola** (v) – lead, pull along; draw  
     wages  
**holej** – haulage  
**holo** – wages, salary  
**holo** – hole (drilled in rock)  
**hotela** – hotel  
**hova** – overtime  
**hovini** – oven  
**huba** – sing  
**hubo** – song, singing  
**hudo** – diarrhoea  
**huk** – hook  
**hulumende** – government  
**hut** – hat

# I

**i-asi** – axle  
**ibululu** – puff adder  
**ibuzi** – field rat  
**ibele** – udder, breast  
**idada** – duck (n)  
**idla** – eat  
**idlisa** – feed (give food to)  
**ifa** – die, expire  
**ifu** – cloud  
**igoda** – thick cord  
**Igoli,**  
     **Janasbek** – Johannesburg  
**igwababa** – crow (bird)

**ihlaba** – pain, hurt  
**Ihlobo** – Summer  
**ijaji** – judge (n)  
**ijuba** – pigeon, dove (pl  
     amajuba)  
**ikolwa** – believer  
**iliso** – eye (pl mehlo)  
**ilwa** – fight, struggle, quarrel,  
     contend  
**ima** – (see **yima**)  
**imba** – dig  
**imbabala** – bushbuck  
**imbali** (n) – flower, blossom  
**imbungulu** – bedbug  
**imidlalo** – sport  
**imisa, yimisa** – erect, set up;  
     stop  
**imiti** – trees  
**impi** – army, commando  
**impuku** – mouse  
**impunzi** – duiker  
**imvu** – sheep  
**imvubu** – hippopotamus  
**imvukazi** – ewe  
**imvwana** – lamb  
**ina!** – take this!  
**incwadi** – letter  
**indaba** – affair, discussion;  
     news, information  
**indle** – veld  
**indumba** – bean  
**induna** – headman of kraal  
**ingalo** (n) – arm; peninsula  
**ingelosi** – angel  
**ingozi** – accident, danger,  
     misfortune  
**ingwe** – leopard  
**ini** – what, which  
**ini?** – what is? which?  
**inja** – dog  
**injakazi** – bitch  
**injin** – engine, loco  
**injiniya** – engineer  
**ink pensil** – ballpoint pen  
**inkakala** – purple, violet  
**inkanyezi** – firefly  
**inkatazo** – mischief, annoyance  
**inkawu** – monkey  
**inkosi nyosi** – queen bee

**inkosikas, inkosikazi** – lady  
**insangu** – Indian hemp, dagga  
**into** – thing, article, object  
**intombazan(a)** – little girl  
**intombi** – (adolescent) girl, young woman, maiden, daughter  
**intliziyo** – heart  
**intliziyo** – life, soul; mood, mind, feeling, conscience; will, temperament  
**inshatshazi** – blister  
**intwakumba** – flea  
**intshe** – ostrich  
**inyanga** – witchdoctor (diviner)  
**inyati** – buffalo; strong, forceful man  
**inxeba** – wound (n)  
**ipi** – where  
**ipi? upi?** – where?  
**upiskati?** – when? at what time?  
**isando** (n) – hammer  
**isangoma** – witchdoctor (diviner)  
**isaziso** – notice (n), advertisement  
**isele** – frog  
**isipo** – gift  
**ispun** – (see **lepel**)  
**istrata** – street  
**istutwane** – fit (epileptic)  
**iva** – thorn  
**ivumo** – tune  
**iwa** – fall (v)  
**iwile** – fallen, capsized  
**ixolo** – tree bark  
**ize** – nothing; something of no importance  
**izenze** – flea  
**izilo** – parasitic worms  
**izolo** – yesterday  
**izwa** – hear, feel  
**izwa lo kaluma** – listen to  
**izwi** – voice, word

## J

**jabula** – rejoice; be happy, glad  
**jabulile** – cheerful  
**jabulisa** (v) – gladden, please

**jadji** – judge, magistrate  
**jag** – jug  
**jalatin** – gelatine, dynamite  
**jamisa** – park (v)  
**Januwari** – January  
**jek** – jack (n)  
**jekhama** – jackhammer  
**jeli** – jelly  
**jele, trongo** – jail  
**jem** – jam  
**jesi** – jersey  
**Jesu** – Jesus  
**jeyil** – prison  
**jiga** – turn, turn round, rotate, turn a corner or bend  
**jiga-jiga** – turn round and round  
**jigela** – around  
**jinkrou** – crowbar  
**jinga** – swing (v)  
**jingisa** – hang up  
**joloba** – elastic  
**jova** – inject, inoculate  
**jovela** – gonorrhoea  
**joyina** – labour contract  
**juba** – dove, pigeon  
**jugujela** – throw, fling  
**Julayi** – July  
**juluka** – sweat (v), perspire  
**Jun** – June

## K

**kaba** – kick (v)  
**kabayid** – carbide, acetylene  
**kabanga** – think, suppose, believe  
**kabangisa** – suggest  
**kabete** – cupboard  
**kade** – long ago; long time  
**kafula** – spit (v)  
**kahlela** – kick (v)  
**kaia, kaya** – home, hut, quarters, kraal  
**kakulu** – very, much, greatly  
**kala** – squeak, scream, cry, wail; complain  
**kalenda** – calendar

**kalik** – lime  
**kalimba** – thumb piano  
**kaloti** – carrot  
**kalukuni** – turkey  
**kalula** – lightly, easily  
**kam** – comb  
**kama** – squeeze (out), wring  
**kambu** – camp  
**kamela ga lala** – bedroom  
**kanda** – head (n)  
**kandlela** – candle  
**kangaka** – so much, this much;  
     so great  
**kangela** – look, look at, behold  
**kanjani?** – how? in what manner?  
     how's things? how goes it?  
**kantolo** – court, office  
**kanya** – give light; be bright;  
     shine  
**kanyekanye** – all together  
**kanyezi** – star  
**kanyisa** – brighten, lighten, il-  
     luminare; illustrate; polish  
**kapenta** – carpenter  
**kapet** – carpet  
**kaplin** – coupling  
**kaplin huk** – coupling hook  
**kapoko, kitika** – snow  
**kasa** – crawl  
**kashana** – distant  
**kasta oil** – castor oil  
**kataza** – disturb, worry, tease  
**katazile** – troublesome  
**katele** – tired, exhausted  
**katesi** – immediately, urgently  
**katsi** – cat  
**katsikazi** – mother cat  
**kaza, kazane** – bushtick  
**kebul** – cable  
**kedi** – caddie  
**kefi** – café  
**kekela** – cackle  
**kemesi** – chemist  
**keta** (v) – select, grade, elect,  
     choose, prefer, segregate  
**ketang** – chain (n)  
**keteni** – curtain  
**ketile** – kettle  
**ki** – key

**kipa** – take out, extract; unload  
**kishi** – kitchen  
**Kisimus** – (see **Krismus**)  
**kitar** – guitar  
**kitakita** – tickle  
**kitika** (v) – snow  
**kiya** – lock (v)  
**klaba** – graze  
**klabisa** – take animals to graze  
**klabish** – cabbage  
**klok** – bell  
**kodwa** – but, though, however  
**kofi** – coffee  
**kohla** – forget; puzzle;  
     embarrass  
**kohlakohla** – cough (n)  
**hohlela** – cough (v)  
**kohlisa** – cheat, mislead, trick,  
     delude, defraud, embarrass  
**kohlo(lapa-)** – left (hand side)  
**koka mali** – pay  
**kokela** (v) – lead (oxen)  
**koko, kogo** – ancestor, grand-  
     parent  
**kola** – satisfy, convince  
**kolisa** – please (v); inspire  
     confidence  
**kololo** – collar  
**kolwa** – believe; be satisfied,  
     convinced  
**kolwa ga Krestu** – Christianity  
**kolweni** – wheat  
**komba** – point (at, out); mark (v)  
**kombisa** (v) – show, point out,  
     teach, guide  
**komitshi** – cup  
**komponi** – compound (n)  
**komponi maneja** – compound  
     manager  
**kompos** – compost  
**komputa** – computer  
**kona cala** – guilty  
**kona lapa** – be present, here;  
     is there  
**kona** – is, am, be, exist; have;  
     here, there  
**kona** (conj) – because, so that  
**kona mpela** – actual  
**kona kwata** – be angry

**konamanje** – immediately, instantly  
**konela** – corner  
**konkrit** – concrete (n)  
**konkota** – barking of dog  
**kontlati, kontrak** – contract, agreement  
**konyane** – calf (animal)  
**koros ga sporo** – level crossing  
**kota** – quarter (¼)  
**koukou** – cocoa  
**kozi** – eagle  
**krikit** – cricket  
**Krismus** – Christmas (Box)  
**Krestu, Kristu** – Christ  
**ku** – at, to, from  
**kudala** – long ago  
**kude** – far (away); far from  
**kudla** – food, forage  
**kukis** – biscuits  
**kuku** – fowl (domestic)  
**kukuba** – because  
**kula** – grow, grow up, increase, become big, accumulate  
**kulisa** – cause to grow, exaggerate, accumulate  
**kulu** – great, large, big  
**kulu kakulu** – very great  
**kulula** – outspan; untie; undress; deliver; set free  
**kuluma** – speak, converse, tell  
**kumbula** – remember, think of, keep in mind, recollect  
**kumbulisa** – remind  
**kumbulo** – memory, thought, idea  
**kumkum** – rain (n)  
**kunene** – right (hand side)  
**kunjani** – (see **kanjani**)  
**kupela** – only, solely, nothing but, alone  
**kuqala** – first, firstly  
**kuqedini** – lastly  
**kusasa** – daybreak, dawn; tomorrow morning; early  
**kuseni** – early (in the day)  
**kutula** – peace  
**kwa** – at; the place of

**kwamatuna** – cemetery, graveyard  
**kwapa** – armpit  
**kwari** – quarry  
**kwata** – angry  
**kweba** – scratch  
**kwela** – board, climb, mount, ride  
**kwela** – copulate (animals)  
**kweleta** – owe  
**kwelisa** – give a lift to  
**Kwindla** – Autumn  
**Kwowu(k)!** – exclamation

## L

**lada** – ladder  
**lahla** – throw away; cast off; abandon; lose; lay down  
**lahlega** – lose, stray, err; slip from mind; be confused  
**lahlegile** – lost, bewildered  
**lahlegisa** – lead astray; mislead  
**laia, laya** – liar  
**laisens** – licence  
**lala** – sleep, rest, lie down  
**lalapansi** – lie down  
**lalana** – copulate  
**lalela** – listen, hear, obey  
**lalisa** – put to sleep; lay down  
**lamba** – get (be) hungry  
**lambile** – hungry  
**lamp, lampu** – lamp, light  
**lamun, lamulo** – lemon  
**landa** – fetch; follow up; track  
**landela** – follow, pursue; next  
**landelana** – go in single file  
**langa** – sun, sunshine; day, date  
**langwan** – long  
**langwan bruk** – longs; long trousers  
**lapa** – at, here, there, to, in  
**lapi** – rag, cloth  
**lapa kaya** – at home  
**lapa kohlo** – left side, on the left  
**lapa leftsayid** – on the left  
**lapa rayitsayid** – on the right



**lapasayid** – there  
**lapaya** – yonder  
**lapi** – cloth, rag  
**lati** – late  
**Lau, Lawu** – Hottentot (pl Ama-)  
**layin** – line  
**layisha** (v) – load, shovel, lash  
**layit** – light  
**layita** – hooligan (pl ama-)  
**layita** (v) – light, illuminate,  
 light up (charges)  
**leda, stepis** – ladder  
**lele** – asleep  
**lelesiwe** – flat (adj)  
**lembu** – spider  
**lepel** – spoon  
**leta** – bring  
**letisi** – lettuce  
**level** – level (n)  
**leven** – eleven  
**leyit** – late  
**libala** – loiter, delay; go slow;  
 idle, neglect  
**lif, lifu** (ga vakasha) – leave (of  
 absence)  
**lifi** – lift, elevator  
**lifa** – weep, wail, cry, mourn  
**lima** – plough, plant, cultivate  
**limala** – (get) hurt; be injured  
**limaza** (v) – wound, harm  
**limbo ga tendela** – spotted cloth  
**limele** – wounded  
**limi** – tongue, language  
**linda** – wait; wait for; watch for  
**lindela** – await  
**linga** – try, attempt; test,  
 examine; taste  
**lingana** – balance (v)  
**linganisa** – measure; level;  
 weigh, balance; compare  
**litshe** – rock, stone, pebble,  
 boulder  
**lizwe** – land, region, country  
**lo** – the  
**loba** – write  
**lobola** – pay (cattle) for a wife  
**lola** – sharpen, grind (axe)  
**loliwe** – railway, train, loco

**lomunye** – another, the other,  
 any more  
**lomuntu** – person  
**loskati** – when, if, while  
**lori** – lorry, truck  
**lova** – loafer, malingerer, lazy;  
 absentee (from work)  
**lovile** – absent (from work)  
**luhlaza** – green (adj), raw  
**lukuni** – hard, stiff, tough, rigid;  
 enduring; severe, hardhearted;  
 difficult  
**lula** – easy, light (in weight)  
**luleka** – advise (v)  
**luleko** – advice (n)  
**luma** – bite, chew; sting, pain  
**lunga** – do right; be right, good,  
 suitable, fitting  
**lungile** – all right, o.k., ready,  
 correct, good, adequate  
**lungisa** (v) – repair, fix, cor-  
 rect, mend  
**lusene** – lucerne  
**lusizi** – sad  
**lwandle** – sea, ocean  
**Lwesibili** – Tuesday  
**Lwesihlanu** – Friday  
**Lwesine** – Thursday  
**Lwesitatu** – Wednesday

## M

**mabala** – colours  
**mabalan** – clerk  
**mabili** – two, pair  
**mabela** – millet, sorghum  
**mablumas** – bloomers  
**madala** – old, aged (person)  
**madala kakula** – ancient  
**madoda** – men  
**madolo** – knees; kneeguards,  
 shinguards  
**madumelan** – pneumatic drill,  
 jackhammer  
**mafestele** – goggles  
**mafu** – clouds

- mafuta** – fat, grease, oil  
**magugu** – cockroaches  
**mahala** – nonsense  
**mahewu** – native beer  
**majistlet** – magistrate  
**maka** – mark (n)  
**makalapa** – hard hat, safety hat, helmet  
**makaza** – cold (adj)  
**makaza bokis** – refrigerator  
**makhali** – weapons, arms  
**makoba** – chaff  
**makulu** – big, great  
**makulu igoda** – rope  
**malabalaba** – aptitude test  
**malahlana** – cinders  
**malahle** – coal, embers, charcoal  
**malahle ga lo totsh** – torch cells  
**mali** – money, coin; value, price  
**malini?** – how much (money)?  
**malume** – uncle  
**mamatheka** – smile  
**mamba** – mamba (snake)  
**mame** – mother  
**mame!** – exclamation of wonder  
**mamekazi** – maternal aunt  
**mamekulu** – grandmother  
**mamela** – listen  
**mampara** – useless person; waste material  
**mandala** – sale  
**mandla** – strength, power, force, energy; authority  
**mane** – four  
**manga** – tell lies, fabricate  
**mangaki?** – how many?  
**mangakiskat?** – how often?  
**mangala** – report; accuse; complain  
**mangalisa** – astonish, surprise, startle  
**maningi** – many, much  
**maningiskat** – often  
**manje** – now, yet, already  
**manjemanje** – soon  
**mankalanyan ga lo ges** – electric loco  
**manyoro** – manure, fertiliser  
**manzi** – water; wet, damp, moist  
**mapanga** – empty trucks  
**mapapu** – lungs  
**mapoyisa** – police  
**masi** – buttermilk, sour milk  
**Matsh** – March  
**masende** – testicles  
**mastek** – mistake, error  
**mata** – friend  
**matatu** – three  
**mate** – saliva, spittle, spit  
**matekini** – jigger fleas  
**matilose** – sailor  
**matras** – mattress  
**matshe** – stones  
**matshhe ga lo zulu** – hail  
**matumbu** – bowels, entrails  
**matungulu** – Natal plums  
**mavejetebel** – vegetables  
**mawo!** – wonderful!  
**mayil** – mile  
**mayin** – mine (n)  
**mazali** – parents  
**mazamban(e)** – potatoes  
**mazenze** – fleas  
**mbaimbai** – later on; afterwards  
**mbala** – colour (n)  
**mbali** – author, clerk, writer  
**mbali** – accountant, computer  
**mbambo** – rib  
**mbane** – lightning  
**mbawul** – methane gas, firedamp  
**mbazi** – carpenter, wood-carver  
**mbede** – bed (pl mabede)  
**mbewu** – seed (pl mabewu)  
**mbele** – udder, teat, breast (pl mabele)  
**mbiko** – message, report  
**mbila** – maize, mealies  
**mbira** – thumb piano  
**mbira** – dassie, rock-rabbit  
**mbitshan** – few, not much  
**mbiza** – pot  
**mbokwane** – eel  
**mbongi** – poet, eulogiser  
**mbongo** – poem, lullaby  
**mbontshi** – bean

- mbumbulu** – rifle (n)  
**mbuzi** – goat  
**mbuzo** – question (n) (pl mabuzo)  
**mdali** – creator  
**Mdali** – Creator  
**mde, mude** – tall, long  
**mdevu** – moustache  
**mdlali** – player  
**mdlalo** – game (play)  
**mdweshwana** – medical dressing (pl madweshwana)  
**mehlo** – eyes  
**melek** – milk (n)  
**mema** – invite, summon  
**memeza** – shout, call out  
**memezela** – proclaim, publish  
**meneja** – manager  
**mengulo** – scum  
**mesenja** – messenger  
**metshs** – matches  
**Meyi** – May  
**mfan** – boy, son, youth, servant (pl bafan)  
**mfanelo** – duty  
**mfanekiso** – portrait, picture; photo; copy; diagram; illustration; model, likeness  
**mfazi** – wife, woman (pl bafazi)  
**mfeketo** – nonsense, annoyance  
**mfihlo** – secret (pl mafihlo)  
**mfingwan** – whistle (n)  
**mfingwan ga poyisa** – police whistle (n)  
**mfiva** – fever, malaria  
**mfula** – river (pl mafula)  
**mfundi** – scholar, learner, reader (pl bafundi)  
**mgero** – trench  
**mgibeli** – horseman  
**mgodi, mgodini** – excavation, shaft, hole, mine  
**mgodi ga manzi** – water hole  
**mgwagwa** – road  
**mgwebi** – judge (n)  
**mgwebo** – judgment, conviction  
**mhambi-ganyawo** – walker, pedestrian  
**mhlaba** – earth, world, land, country  
**mhlabati** – sand, ground, soil  
**mhlandla** – backbone  
**mhlane** – back of body  
**mhlati** – jaw  
**mhlambe** – perhaps; or  
**mhleli** – editor  
**mhlobo** – tribe, race; friend, pal, relation; type, kind, colour, nationality  
**mhlope** – white, clear, bright  
**mhlope mali** – silver or nickel coins  
**mholi** – leader, guide  
**mila** – grow  
**milyoni** – million  
**mina** – me, I, myself  
**mini** – noon, midday; daytime  
**miniti** – minute (time)  
**minza** – swallow, gulp down, drown  
**minzisa** – drown  
**minzo** – throat (gullet)  
**misa** – set up, erect, establish  
**misis** – madam  
**misundu** – worms  
**mita** – become pregnant  
**miti** – pregnant  
**mitisa** – impregnate  
**mjaho** – race (competing)  
**mjovo** – injection, inoculation  
**mjuluko** – sweat (n)  
**mkabango** – thought (n)  
**mkaza** – bushtick  
**mkokeli** – leader, guide  
**mkondo** – spoor, track  
**mkonto** – assegai, spear, javelin, dart  
**mkopoli** – surveyor  
**mkoti** – bride  
**mkuhlane** – cold, illness, catarrh, flu, fever  
**mkululi** – deliverer  
**mkumbi** – ship, boat  
**mkweli** – rider  
**mlando** – story, tale  
**mlilo** – fire, flame (n)  
**mlenze** – leg  
**mlomo** – mouth, lips, beak; opening, entrance

- mlota** – ash(es)  
**Mlungu** – White (person) (pl)  
     Abelungu)  
**mnandi** – sweet, pleasant, nice,  
     fine, smooth, delicious; polite  
**mnyama** – black, dark,  
     darkness  
**mnyamana** – dark  
**mngibelo, Mnqibelo** – Saturday  
**Modimo** – God  
**molo!** – good morning!  
**mosha** (v) – waste, mess, dirty  
**moto** – motor  
**moto ga lo ges** – electric motor  
**motokali** – motor car  
**moya** – air, wind, breath, at-  
     mosphere, weather.  
**moya** – spirit, ghost, soul  
**mpahla** – clothes, baggage, lug-  
     gage; goods, stock, movable  
     property; furniture; tools,  
     apparatus  
**mpande** – root  
**mpandla** – bald  
**mpangele** – guinea fowl  
**mpegi** – cook (n)  
**mpela** – thoroughly, very, en-  
     tirely, completely  
**mpempe** – whistle (n)  
**mpendulo** (n) – answer, reply  
**mpeto** – seam, hem (n)  
**mpilo** – health  
**mpimbo** – throat  
**mpofu** – eland  
**mpofu** – yellow, amber, tawny;  
     poor  
**mpompi** – pump (n)  
**mpondo** (n) – pound (lb) horn  
**mpukane** – fly (n)  
**mpumpute** – blind (adj)  
**mpumlo** – nose  
**mpunga** – grey  
**mpungu** – lung  
**mpupu** – mealie meal  
**msebenzi** (n) – work, job,  
     labour, task, trade, occupa-  
     tion, worker, servant  
**msele** – groove, furrow, chan-  
     nel, trench  
**msele ga lo manzi** – gutter  
**mshado** – wedding  
**mshanyelo** – broom  
**mshobingo** – urine  
**mshongolo** – tribal dance  
**msila** – tail; trailer  
**msindo** – noise, sound  
**msino** – dance (n)  
**msipa** – muscle  
**msizi** – helper  
**msundu** – worm  
**mswakama** – moisture  
**mtagati** – wizard, witch,  
     enchanter  
**mtambam** – afternoon  
**mtambo** – vein, pulse, artery,  
     bloodvessel  
**mtandazo** – prayer  
**mtando** – love (n)  
**mtelo** – licence  
**mtengi** – buyer  
**mteto** – law, regulation(s)  
**mti, muti** – tree  
**mtofu** – lead (metal)  
**mtombo** – fountain  
**mtondo** – piston, penis  
**mtondo ga lo moto** – piston  
**mtshini** – machine  
**mtshini ga sheva** – electric  
     razor  
**mtshontshi** – thief  
**mtunzi** – tailor; sewing woman  
**mtunzi** – shade, shadow  
**mtwalo** – load (n)  
**mtwana** – child  
**mubi** – ugly, dirty; bad, evil  
**muhle** – nice, pretty, well,  
     properly, good  
**muhle mpela, muhle stelek** –  
     best  
**mula** – soot  
**munca** – suck  
**muntu** – person, human being  
**muntu yena sebenza** – labourer  
**munwe** – finger (n)  
**munye** – one, some  
**muynewan** – one  
**muyne into** – something  
**muyne langa** – someday

**munye muntu** – somebody  
**munye ndawo** – somewhere  
**munyeskat** – once, sometime  
**musa** – mustn't, don't do, stop doing  
**musi** – smoke (n)  
**muti** – medicine, medicament  
**muva, emva** – backwards, behind, after  
**muva ga dina** – afternoon  
**muzwa** – nerve  
**mvelo** – nature, origin  
**mvemvane** – butterfly  
**mvu** – (see **imvu**)  
**mvemve** – wagtail (bird)  
**mvubu** – sjambok, hippopotamus  
**mvula** – rain  
**mvulamanzi** – rainwater  
**Mvulo** – Monday  
**mvuno** – harvest (n)  
**mvuto** – forge, bellows  
**myeni** – bridegroom  
**mzali** – parent  
**mzi, muzi** – abode, shelter, kraal  
**mzimba** – body  
**mzondo** – bedbug  
**Mzulu** – Zulu person

# N

**na** – and, with  
**na?** – interrogative  
**naliti** – needle (n)  
**namba** – number  
**nambita** – taste (v)  
**namhla** – today  
**namhla busuku** – tonight  
**namhla kusishwa** – this evening  
**namhla mtambam** – this afternoon  
**nandisa** (v) – sweeten; make agreeable  
**nanku! nantsi** – there! (indicating), here it is! here they are!

**nayif** – knife  
**nayin** – nine  
**nayinti** – ninety  
**nayintin** – nineteen  
**nayit** – night  
**nayit tshif** – night shift  
**ncane** – young  
**ncela** – suck milk  
**ncelisa** – suckle  
**ncwaba** – bury (a corpse)  
**ncwabo** – funeral; grave  
**ncwadi** – letter, document, pamphlet  
**Ncwadi-ga-Tixo** – Bible  
**ndaba** – because  
**ndawo** – place, spot, locality, position  
**ndawo ga puma** – exit (n)  
**ndish** – dish, bowl (n)  
**ndiza** – fly (v)  
**ndlebe** – ear  
**ndlela** – road, way, footpath  
**ndlelana** – narrow path  
**ndlela-ganyawo** – track, sidewalk  
**ndlovu** – elephant  
**ndlu** – hut, house  
**ndlu** – den, nest, web, hive  
**ndlu ga sidumbu** – mortuary  
**ndlulamiti** – giraffe  
**ndoda** – husband, male, man (pl madoda)  
**ndolowane** – elbow  
**nduku ga hamba** – crutches  
**ndunduma** – dump (n)  
**nene** – gentleman, worthy man  
**nengozi** – dangerous  
**nesi** – nurse (n)  
**nesibindi** – bold, brave, fearless  
**neta** – raining, wetting  
**netisa** – soak (v)  
**nga** – by means of, through, with, by  
**nga-lo** – by means of this (or that)  
**ngane** – child, friend  
**nganeno** – on this side  
**ngani?** – by what means?  
**nganyawo** – on foot  
**nga-pagati** – between

- ngapandle** – without (outside)  
**ngapansi** – beneath  
**ngapaya** – beyond, yonder  
**ngcela** – suck  
**ngena** – enter, go in (to),  
penetrate  
**ngenisisa** – bring in, take in, insert, introduce  
**nge-nyango** – per month  
**Ngisi** – Englishman  
**nglazi** – glass  
**ngolovan** – cocopan, rail truck  
**ngoma** – drum (musical)  
**ngoma** – song, hymn, dance  
**ngomso** – tomorrow  
**ngonyama** – lion  
**ngozi** – accident, danger  
**ngubo** – blanket, garment  
**ngulube** – pig, hog  
**ngwele, ngcwele** – holy  
**ngwenya** – crocodile; mine  
crusher(s)  
**ngwenyen** – crushing station  
**nhlansi** – spark  
**nhlanza** – cream  
**niga** – give, deliver, hand to,  
supply with  
**nigelo** – gift, offering  
**nikis** – none, nothing  
**nina** – you (pl)  
**nisela** – irrigate, water  
**njabulo** – joy, pleasure  
**njalo** – so, in this manner, like  
that  
**njalo-njalo** – continuously, so  
on, forever, etcetera  
**nkabi** – ox  
**nkambiso** – custom, habit  
**nkatazo** – trouble (n)  
**nkolo** – belief  
**nkomo, nkomazi** (pl  
zinkomo) – cow  
**nkos** – sir  
**nkosana** – chieftain, petty chief  
**nkosi** – chief, master, sir  
**nkosikazi** – lady, wife, chieftain-  
ness, madam  
**Nkos-pezulu** – God  
**nkuku** – (see **kuku**)
- nkukukazi** – hen  
**Nkulunkulu** – God, Supreme  
Being  
**nkuni** – wood, firewood, log  
**nkungu** – mist  
**nkunzi** – bull, male animal  
**nogwaja** – rabbit  
**noko** – if, when, or, although,  
however  
**nombola** – number  
**nona** – become rich, or fat  
**noneba** – elbow  
**nonya** – cruel  
**not** – knot  
**noti** – nut  
**notile** – wealthy  
**notisi** – notice (n)  
**Novemba** – November  
**nqola, ngola** – wagon  
**nguma, nquma** – amputate;  
cut across; give a decision  
**nqumo** – decision  
**nsepe** – springbok  
**nsimbi** – (see **ntsimbi**)  
**nsimi** – cultivated land, field  
**nsune** – mosquito  
**nsundu, ntsundu** – brown;  
brown person  
**nswele** – onion  
**ntaba** – hill, mountain  
**ntambo** – string, thong, riem  
**ntambo ga lo ges** – electric wire  
**ntandane** – orphan  
**ntando** – pleasure  
**ntamo** – neck  
**ntikintiki** – jelly  
**ntlanzi** – fish (n)  
**ntloko** – head (n)  
**Ntlokohlaza** – Spring  
**ntongomane** – peanuts, ground  
nuts  
**ntsepu** – soap  
**ntsha** – young  
**ntsimbi** – iron, steel; gong, bell  
**ntsuku** – day  
**ntutu** – smoke (n)  
**ntutwane** – ant  
**ntwala** – louse, lice  
**nuka** (v) – smell, stink

**nuka mnandi** – fragrant  
**numzan** – headman, chief (of kraal); sir  
**nundu** – moth  
**nunu** – reptile, gogga  
**nunusa** – frighten (children with goggas)  
**nuzipepa** – newspaper  
**nwaya** – itch  
**nweba** – stretch  
**nwele** – hair  
**nyaka** – year  
**nyama** – meat, flesh  
**nyamazon**,  
**nyamakazi** – buck, venison, game  
**nyanga** – moon; month  
**nyanga** – herbalist, diviner  
**nyanga-ezayo** – next month  
**nyango** – door, doorway  
**nyanis** – true, truth, surely, really, definitely, certainly  
**nyanis kupela** – the whole truth  
**nyanis mpela** – emphatically true  
**nyanisa** – speak truth; affirm, take oath; behave correctly  
**nyaniso** – truth  
**nyanzela** – compel, squeeze  
**nyatela** (v) – tread on; pedal  
**nyawo** – foot (of body)  
**nyembezi** – tears (weeping)  
**nyoka** – snake, serpent  
**nyoka ga lo manzi** – water snake  
  
**nyonga** – hip  
**nyongo** – gall, bile  
**nyoni** – bird  
**nyosi** – bee  
**nyosi-ndlu** – beehive  
**nyuwan** – new; novice, learner  
**nyuzipepa** – newspaper  
**nxal** – expletive (expression of displeasure)  
**nxaniwe** – thirsty  
**nzima** – heavy, weighty; burdensome, difficult; pregnant; important

## O

**obaba** – fathers (irregular pl)  
**odade** – sisters (irregular pl)  
**odit** – audit  
**ofisi, hofisi** – office  
**Okitoba** – October  
**olintsh** – orange  
**oma** – become dry, hard, ripe; thirst  
**omame** – mothers irregular (pl)  
**omile** – dry, dried, arid, dehydrated  
**omisa** – make dry, dehydrate  
**omunye, omnye** – another, anyone  
**osa** – roast, fry, grill, toast  
**overolo, ovalolo** – overalls  
**ona** – do wrong or injustice to; harm, injure  
**oyil, oil** – oil

## P

**pafuza** – belch (v)  
**pagati** – inside, into, between, among, middle, through  
**pagati mpela** – centre  
**pahla** – roof, framework  
**pai** – pie  
**paka** – cat  
**pakama** (v) – erect, stand up, rise  
**pakamisa** (v) – lift, raise, elevate; promote, propose  
**pakeme** – important  
**paketi, paketeni** – packet, parcel  
**pal** – pole  
**palafin, parafin** – paraffin  
**palitshi** – porridge  
**pambili** – in front, forward; before (place or time)  
**pan** – pan  
**pandle, pandhle** – outside, out  
**pandolo** – pantry  
**panga** – empty (truck)

- pansi, pantsi** – floor, below,  
 down, low, underground  
**papa** (v) – flap wings, be alert,  
 active  
**pape** – feather  
**papisa** – rouse  
**papu** – lung  
**pas** (n) – pass, permit  
**pasop** – (see **basopa**)  
**pata** (v) – touch, handle, feel  
**pauwa** – power  
**pauwa steshi** – power station  
**pawuda** – powder  
**pawund** – pound (n)  
**payinapu** – pineapple  
**payip** – pipe  
**payip ga bema** – tobacco pipe  
**perfumula** – breathe  
**pefumulo** – breath  
**pega** (v) – cook, boil  
**pek** – hoe (n)  
**pela** – stop, cease, finish, come  
 to an end  
**pelepele** – pepper  
**pelile** – ended, finished,  
 exhausted  
**pelisa** – settle, finish  
**pemet** – permit (n)  
**pende** – paint (n)  
**penduka** – turn (back)  
**pendula** (v) – answer, reply;  
 turn over, reverse  
**pensel** – pencil  
**penta** – paint (v)  
**pepa** – paper  
**pepa mali** – banknote  
**pesej** – passage  
**pesheya** – across river; over-  
 seas; on the other side of  
**peta** – hem (v)  
**petrol** – petrol  
**petsh** – patch  
**pezulu** – above, over; top, roof;  
 high  
**pezulu ku** – on top (of)  
**pika** – deny, contradict, dispute,  
 contend  
**pikap** – police van  
**pikanin** – child, piccanin;  
 young, small  
**piki** – pick (axe)  
**pikisa** – pick quarrel with  
**piko** – wing  
**pila** – be well, better; recover  
 (health), recuperate; live (v)  
**pilikos** – apricot  
**pilisa** (v) – cure, heal  
**pilile** – cured, well, healthy  
**pilo** – pillow  
**pimisa** – spit (v)  
**pin** – pin  
**pinda** – repeat, return  
**pindisa** – retaliate  
**pinifo** – pinafore  
**psi** – piece  
**piston** – piston  
**pitsh** – peach  
**piyano** – piano  
**pizi** – peas  
**plag** – plug (n)  
**plank** – splint, plank  
**planti** – plant (n)  
**plas** – farm (n)  
**platform** – platform  
**playas** – pliers  
**plen** – plan  
**pleyit** – plate  
**po!** – phooey!, bah!  
**pola** – cool off, subside; heal; be  
 calm  
**polile** – is cool  
**polish** – polish (n)  
**polisha** – polish (v)  
**pompa** – pump (v)  
**popi** – doll  
**pontsh** – (rail) frog, points  
**pontshi** – punch (tool)  
**pontshiwe** – puncture  
**popo** – papaya, pawpaw  
**pos** – post  
**posa** – throw, fling  
**pos hofisi** – post office  
**pose** – almost  
**posisa** – miss, mistake, err,  
 transgress  
**posisaka** – mailbag  
**posisile** – make mistake



**posta** – poster  
**poti** – pot  
**poyisa** – police  
**poyisa steshi** – police station  
**poyizen** – poison  
**propi** (n) – cork, stopper  
**puga** – break (vi)  
**pula** – break, fracture (vt)  
**pulangwe** – plank  
**pulazi** – farm (n)  
**puli** – pulley  
**puli wil** – pulley wheel  
**puma** – come or go out, emerge,  
     come from; rise (sun)  
**pumalanga** – sunrise  
**Pumalanga** – East  
**puma lo gazi** – bleed  
**pumisa** – take out, extract;  
     eject, force out  
**pumisa mate** – spit (v)  
**pumula** – rest  
**punga** – odour, scent, smell  
**punga mubi** – stink  
**pupa** – dream (v)  
**pupo** – dream (n)  
**putu** – thick porridge  
**puza** – drink, eat  
**puzi** – pumpkin  
**puzisa** – water (animals)

## Q

**qabula** – kiss (v)  
**qakala** – ankle  
**qala** – begin, start  
**qalisa** – initiate, cause to start  
**qanda** – egg  
**qeda** – finish  
**qedisa** – complete (v)  
**qediviki** – illicit brew (fortified)  
**qina** – be fixed, firm, tight,  
     steadfast  
**qinile** – secure  
**qinisa** – fasten; make firm,  
     tight  
**qinisile** – true

**qonda** – understand, compre-  
     hend; be sure, intelligent  
**qondisa** – help to understand  
**qoto** – honest  
**qude** – cock, rooster  
**quqa** – trot

## R

**raba** – rubber  
**rabish** – rubbish  
**ragbi** – rugby  
**Ranti** – Rand (money)  
**rasa** – row (v), make noise  
**rawund** – circle  
**rayis** – rice  
**rayitsayid** – right-hand side  
**redishi** – radish  
**referi** – referee  
**reke** – rake  
**reyiza** – razor  
**ringi** – ring (n)  
**risiti** – receipt  
**rivit** – rivet  
**rog** – frock, dress  
**rula** – (foot) rule

## S

**saba** – fear, be afraid; flee  
**sabela** (v) – answer, reply  
**sabisa** (v) – alarm, frighten  
**sadele** – saddle (n)  
**sagha, sara** – saw (tool)  
**saka** – sack, bag  
**sakubona!** – good day!  
**sakubula** – wydah bird  
**sal** – saddle (n)  
**sala** – stay, remain (behind);  
     survive; be left over  
**sala gahle!** – goodbye! (remain  
     in peace!)  
**salagaas** – old cow  
**salani gahle!** – goodbye  
     everyone!  
**sambulela** – umbrella

- samente** – cement  
**sampu** – sump  
**sampula** – sample  
**sanamabij** – nail extractor, rail spike extractor  
**sando** – hammer  
**sandla** – hand, glove  
**sandla ga kudla** – the right hand  
**sandla ga posa** – right hand (literally “the throwing hand”)  
**sango** – gate, gateway  
**santi** – sand  
**sapot** – brassiere  
**Satan** – Satan, Devil  
**Sauwt** – South  
**saveya** – surveyor  
**sawuti** – salt  
**sayid** – side  
**sayin** – sign (n)  
**sayinet** – cyanide  
**sayiz** – size  
**sebenza** (v) – work, labour  
**sebenzisa** – employ, operate, use  
**Sebutemba** – September  
**sefdrat** – wire netting  
**sefmehlo** – gauze goggles  
**sefu** – sieve  
**sela** – thief  
**selesele** – frog, toad  
**semwish** – sandwich  
**sende** – testicle  
**sendle** – wild  
**sendulo** – ancient  
**senga** (v) – milk (cow, etc)  
**sent** – cent  
**setsha** – examine, investigate  
**Setswana** – Setswana  
**seva** – sift  
**seven** – seven  
**seyil** – canvas  
**seyil ga lo moya** – canvas tubing  
**shada** – marry  
**shafu** – shaft  
**shalof** – shelf  
**shanyela** – sweep (v)  
**shaya** – hit, strike, beat, punish, knock; play (an instrument, or with ball)  
**shaya holo** – drill a hole  
**shaya lo huta** – hoot  
**shaya lo ntsimbi** – knock off work  
**shaya mfangwan, shaya mpempe** – blow whistle  
**shayela** – drive (cart or car)  
**shayeli, draiva** – driver  
**shayile** – finish(ed) work; knocking-off time  
**shayisa** – knock off work  
**shefa** – shave (v)  
**shekel** – shackle, connecting link  
**shela** (v) – woo, court  
**shendela** – shunt  
**shif** – shift (n)  
**shifbas** – shift boss  
**shimula** – chimney  
**shiya** – abandon, leave, desert, omit  
**shiyile** – left behind  
**shizi** – cheese  
**shobinga** – urinate  
**shoko** – shock  
**shona** – set, sink, disappear, go down; become bankrupt  
**shonalanga** – sunset  
**Shonalanga** – West  
**shongololo** – millipede, thousand-legs  
**shova** – push  
**shu!** – exclamation of burning and pain  
**shuga, shugela** – sugar  
**shukuma** – shake, move, stir  
**shukumisa** – cause to shake, move, wag  
**shumi** – ten  
**shushu** – hot  
**sibamu** – shotgun, rifle  
**sibedlele, spetele** – hospital  
**sibindi** – liver (n) courage, vigour  
**sibonda** – pole  
**sibuko** – mirror  
**Sibulu** – Afrikaans  
**sibedlele** – dressing station  
**sicoko, sikoko** – hat  
**sidumbu** – corpse

- sifebe** – prostitute, immoral person  
**sifo** – death  
**sifuba** – chest, breast, bosom  
**sifungu** – affidavit, oath  
**sigaret, sikilidi** – cigarette  
**sigubo** – drum (instrument)  
**sigwagwa** – machine gun  
**sihlalo** – chair, seat, stool; saddle  
**sihlakala** – wrist  
**sihlali** – cheek (n)  
**sihogo** – hell  
**sika** – cut (off, out); kill  
**sikele** – sickle  
**sikelela** – bless  
**sikis** – six  
**sikistin** – sixteen  
**sikolo, skolo** – school  
**sikombisa** – seven  
**sikonyane** – locust  
**sikota** – veld  
**sikova** – owl  
**sikrufu** – screw (n)  
**sikrufudraiva** – screwdriver  
**silondo (n)** – sore, wound  
**silondo ga mlilo** – burn (n)  
**silevu** – beard, chin  
**silwane** – beast, animal, creature  
**silwanekazane** – insect, gogga  
**silwanyana** – small animal, insect, vermin  
**silungulelo** – indigestion, heartburn  
**silva** – silver  
**sina** – dance (v)  
**sinda** – save, be saved (have narrow escape).  
**sindile** – safe  
**sindisa** – save, rescue; spare; heal  
**sindo** – weight  
**sine; fo** – four  
**sineka** – grin (v)  
**Singis(i)** – English  
**sinkwa** – bread  
**sinqe** – buttocks  
**sipepo** – storm  
**sipere** – spare part  
**sipu, sepu** – soap  
**sishikan** – electric drill  
**sirinji** – syringe  
**sistel** – sister  
**sisu** – belly, stomach, abdomen  
**Siswati** – Swazi language  
**sitampu, stampu** – postage stamp  
**sitelo** – fruit  
**sitende** – heel  
**sitole** – heifer  
**situpa** – six; thumb  
**situta** – stupid person, fool, idiot  
**sitwatwa** – frost  
**sivalo** – cork, cover, stopper; door  
**siza** – help, aid, assist,; rescue, relieve; sympathize with  
**sizi** – grief, sorrow  
**sizwa** – aid (n)  
**skafu, skaf** – food  
**skali (n)** – scales, balance  
**skatula** – shoe, sandal, boot  
**skati** – time, turn  
**skati ka** – o'clock; at that time  
**skebenga** – bad man, criminal  
**skele** – scissors  
**skelem** – rascal  
**skiti** – pound (for animals)  
**skodonga** – lubricator  
**skokian** – skokiaan  
**skoko** – hard hat  
**skolo, skul** – school  
**skomdere** – volunteer  
**skonkwan** – peg (surveyor's, etc)  
**skop** – head; tobacco bud  
**skotshka** – scotch cart  
**skruf** – screw  
**skrumpat** – tractor  
**skumba (n)** – skin, hide, leather  
**skwam(u)** – pocket  
**skwele, skwere** – square  
**skweleti** – debt, account  
**slipisi** – railway sleeper  
**slutulelo** – key  
**smesh** – accident  
**smok, smoko** – compressed air; fumes; gas

**sobo, sopo** – soup  
**soda, sawuti** – epsom salts  
**sokis** (ganyawo) – socks  
**sola** – blame  
**soldati** – soldier  
**Sombuluko** – Monday  
**sompungana** – sanitation  
**sondela** (v) – approach, come near  
**sondo** – (see **vil**)  
**songa** (v) – fold, roll, wrap up; wind up  
**songo** – bangle  
**sono** – sin (n)  
**sonteni** – church  
**sonto** – Sunday; church; week  
**sori** – sorry  
**sositshi** – sausage  
**spambano** – cross (n)  
**span** – team  
**spanela** – spanner  
**spatsholo** – syphilis  
**spetele** – hospital  
**speleti** – pin  
**speketala** – inspector  
**speshele** – special pass  
**spikiri** – nail (n)  
**sporo** – track, rail  
**sprag** – sprag  
**springi** – spring (metal)  
**spuki** – ghost  
**spukupuk** – stupid, fool, sim-pleton, blockhead  
**spun** – spoon  
**stalidi** – street  
**staplayit** – robot, traffic light  
**stebel** – stable (n)  
**stelek** – strong; very; thorough-ly; hard  
**stes** – stairs  
**steshi** – station  
**stikitan** – label  
**stim** – steam, power, effort  
**stimela** – railway train  
**stimela ga lo manzi** – steamship  
**stin** – brick  
**stishini, stishi** – station  
**stofu** – stove

**stokis** – spare diet; prison  
**stokwe** – piecework; task  
**stolo** – store; barn, shed  
**stolo ga lo tshwala** – bottle store  
**stretsha** – stretcher  
**streyit** – straight  
**strangimani** – circus  
**stuba** – distance  
**stuba pezulu** – height  
**stul** – chair  
**stututu** – motor cycle  
**stutwane** – epilepsy  
**suka** – go (off, away); start; get up  
**suka!** – go away!  
**sukisa** – chase away  
**sukuma** – stand up, get up  
**sula** (v) – dust, wipe (off), clean, polish  
**sulela** – infect, contaminate  
**suliwe** – clean (adj), cleaned  
**susa** – move, shift; remove, take away; subtract  
**suza** (v) – fart, break wind  
**swakama** – become wet  
**swakeme** – moist  
**swakamisa** – moisten  
**swepu, swebu** – whip (n)  
**switi, sviti** – sweets  
**switsh** – switch

## T

**tafa** – plateau  
**taful** – table  
**tafulduk** – tablecloth  
**tagata** – bewitch, enchant  
**tagati** – magic, bewitched  
**taka** – mix  
**tamata, tamatishi** – tomato  
**tamba** – become tame, soft, gentle, submissive; civilized  
**tembile** – soft; tamed  
**tambisa** – soften, relax; tame, break in  
**tambo** – bone

**tanda** (v) – love, like; desire, wish

**tanda kakulu** – idolise

**tandaza** – pray, entreat

**tandazo** – prayer

**tandisa** – fascinate

**tanga** – pumpkin; thigh

**tata** – take (from)

**tausend** – thousand

**tawul** – towel

**taya** – tyre

**tebekolosis** – tuberculosis

**teksi** – taxi

**tekula** – joke (v)

**tela** – pour (into)

**tela manzi** – pour water

**telefomo** – telephone (n)

**temba** – expect, hope; trust, rely on

**tembisa** – promise

**ten** – ten

**tena** – castrate, dock, prune

**tenda** – turn round, revolve

**tendela** – partridge, francolin

**tendela** – wobble (v)

**tenga** – buy, purchase

**tengisa** – sell; offer for sale

**tenis** – tennis

**tenk** – tank

**tep, tepu** – tap, cock

**tetisa** – reprove, scold

**teta** – try (legally); scold, nag

**teti** – thirty

**tetin** – thirteen

**tibi, TB** – tuberculosis

**ti, tiye, tiyi** – tea

**tikameza** – tease (v)

**tikit** – ticket

**tikoloshe** – tikolosh (river imp)

**timba** – timber

**timbila** – Chopi xylophone

**timula** – sneeze

**tin, tini** – tin, drum

**tina** – we, us

**tinta** – touch (v)

**tipoti** – teapot

**tisha** – teacher

**tispun** – teaspoon

**Tixo** – God

**tiya** (v) – trap, snare, ambush

**tiyo** – bait (n)

**toba** (v) – bend, bow, stoop

**tobisa** – cause to bend; subdue

**tokozisa** – cheer up, delight

**tokozile** – cheerful

**tokozo** – happiness

**tola** – obtain, find, pick up, take up

**toliki** – interpreter

**tom** – bridle (n)

**tomba** – rust (v)

**tomba** – sprout; reach age of puberty

**tombile** – rusty, rusted

**tombo** – malt

**tonel** – tunnel (n)

**tonsa** – drip (v)

**tonsi** – drop (n)

**tosti** – toast (n)

**totsh** – torch

**tri** – three

**troko** – truck

**tshala** (v) – plant, bury (funeral)

**tshani** – grass

**tshapu** – chopper, axe

**tshek** – cheque

**tshela** – tell, inform instruct

**tsheleka** – lend; borrow

**tshetsha** – hasten

**tshetsha!** – be quick!

**tsheyini** – chain (n)

**tshiki** – cheeky, insolent

**tshintsha** – transfer, substitute, change (money)

**tshintshi** (n) – change (money)

**tshipisa** – cheapen, reduce in price

**tshipile** – cheap, bargain

**tshisa** – hot, heat; burn, blast

**tshisa mbitshan** – lukewarm

**tshisastik** – fuse lighter

**tshizel** – chisel

**tshokoleti** – chocolate

**tshona** – submerge

**tshontsha** – rob, steal

**tshotshaloza mshin** – diamond drill

**tshub** – tube

**tshwala** – beer  
**tsotsi** – tsotsi, hooligan, scoundrel  
**tu** – two  
**tuba** – chance (n)  
**tuka** – swear (at), insult, curse  
**tukutela** – become angry  
**tukutele** – angry  
**tula!** – be quiet! shut up! hush!  
**tulake!** – quiet, please!  
**tulabo!** – be quiet! (emphatic)  
**tuli** – dust (n)  
**tulile** – quiet, still, calm  
**tulisa** – pacify  
**tuma** – send  
**tumatsh** – too much  
**tumba** – abscess, boil  
**tumbu** – tube; hosepipe; intestine  
**tumbu ga lo manzi** – water pipe, hose  
**tumbu ga lo smok** – air hose  
**tuna** – grave (n)  
**tunga** – sew; splice; mend  
**tunzi** – soul, spirit  
**tunda** – urinate  
**tutumela** – tremble; be nervous, alarmed, anxious  
**tutumelisa** – make nervous  
**twala** – carry  
**twelof** – twelve  
**twenti** – twenty  
**tyali** – shawl

## U

**ubambo** – rib  
**ubani?** – who? whom?  
**ubudi** – evil  
**ufunani?** – (see **funani?**)  
**ufuta** – stench  
**uhambo** – journey (n)  
**uju (ga lo-nyosi)** – honey  
**ukotuka** – shock  
**ukuba** – that (conjunction); so that, because  
**ukude** – until  
**ukufa, gufa** – death

**ukula** – weeds  
**ukuti** – that (conjunction)  
**ukwazi** – knowledge  
**ukuwelwa ndlebe** – earache  
**ukuwelwa ntloko** – headache  
**ukuzala** – birth  
**ukuzalwa** – is born  
**ulaza** – cream  
**umalusi** – shepherd, herdboy  
**umangi** – liar  
**umbusi** – governor  
**umfan** – (see **mfan**)  
**umfula** – river  
**umfundisi** – teacher, missionary, clergyman  
**umfokazi** – stranger  
**umfazi** – (see **mfazi**)  
**umhlanziso** – emetic  
**umona** – envy, jealousy  
**umsindisi** – saviour, rescuer  
**umusa** – favour  
**umzingeli** – hunter  
**unowoha** – (see **mfene**)  
**upi** – where  
**upi?** – where?  
**upiskati? ipiskati?** – when? at what time?  
**upondo** – horn, tusk, ivory; tower, steeple  
**Utixo** – (see **Tixo**)  
**uto** – any, anything, something

## V

**vala (v)** – close, shut, cover  
**valela mali** – deposit money  
**valo (n)** – cork, cover  
**valv** – valve  
**vejetebe** – vegetable  
**vek, wik** – week  
**vela** – come from, come forth, appear  
**velapi?** – where do you come from?  
**velisa** – bring forth, produce; propose, suggest

**velv** – valve  
**vika** – parry, ward off, avoid (a blow)  
**vikela** – protect, defend; intercede or plead for  
**vil** – wheel (n)  
**vimba** – prevent; close (shut) up; store away  
**vimbela** – avert, prevent, shield, obstruct  
**vimbela-ngozi** – safety  
**vitamini** – vitamin  
**volontiya** – volunteer  
**volovolo** – revolver  
**vova** – wring, squeeze  
**vuka** (vi) – wake up, get up, spring up, rise  
**vukela shift** – early shift  
**vukile** – awake  
**vukuzi** – mole  
**vula** – open (door, etc), unlock  
**vuma** – agree, consent; acknowledge  
**vuma** (n) – vim, pep, vigour  
**vuma ga mnandi** – harmonise  
**vumela** – allow, permit, authorise  
**vumelo** (n) – consent  
**vumisa** – convince, persuade  
**vuna** – thresh, reap, gather harvest (grain)  
**vunguza** – blow (wind)  
**vusa** (vt) – wake, awaken, arouse, raise, alarm, warn  
**vuta** (v) – burn, blaze, flare; be intense or ardent  
**vutela** – blow (the fire)  
**vutisa** – make hot  
**vutiwe** – ripe; (well) cooked; mature

**vutwa** – ripen  
**vuza** (v) – leak, ooze out

## W

**waia** – wire  
**waia ga lo gesi** – live wire  
**wayales, wailisi** – wireless, radio  
**wan** – one  
**washa** (v) – wash  
**washgel** – washgirl  
**watsh** – watch, clock  
**wayin** – wine  
**webo** – you (emphatic)  
**wegon** – wagon  
**wej** – wedge  
**wekshap** – workshop(s)  
**wela** – ford river; cross sea; cross stream of traffic  
**wena** – you (singular)  
**wenazonke** – you (plural)  
**wetu** – pal, friend, colleague, contemporary; fellow tribesman, kinsman  
**wik** – week  
**wil, vil** – wheel  
**wila** – fall  
**wile, iwile** – fallen  
**wilibero** – wheelbarrow  
**windmil** – windmill  
**winj, winji** – winch  
**visa** – upset (v)  
**wol** – wall  
**wola** – gather  
**wowa** – fall; crash  
**wuwu** – owl

# X

- x!** – exclamation of disgust or contempt  
**Xosa** – Xhosa  
**xosha** – drive away (cattle, etc); dismiss  
**xuba** – mix together

# Y

- ya** – yes  
**yabolisa** – please  
**yas** – overcoat  
**yazi** – (see **azi**)  
**yebo** – yes, certainly  
**yedwa** – alone (solitary)  
**ye he!** – ha ha!  
**yeka** – leave off; leave alone; let go; cease; yield  
**yeka lo kudla** – fast (v)  
**yekelela** – loosen, slacken  
**yena** – that (person or thing)  
**yena, ena** – he, she, it, who, whom  
**yenababili** – both of them  
**yena lo!** – that's it!; it is (right)  
**yenazonke** – they, them  
**yidla** – (see **idla**)  
**yilwa** – (see **ilwa**)  
**yimba** – (see **imba**)  
**yima** – stand, stop, halt  
**yimisa** (v) – stop, park  
**yini** – (see **ini**)  
**yini?** – (see **ini?**)  
**yinindaba?** – why? what's the matter?  
**yinto** – (see **into**)  
**yintoni?** – what is it? what thing is this?

- yisti** – yeast  
**yizwa** – (see **izwa**)  
**yo!** – exclamation of surprise  
**yunifom** – uniform

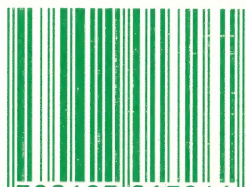
# Z

- zacile** – thin, malnourished  
**zala** – give birth, breed; increase  
**zalela** – lay (eggs)  
**zamban** – potato  
**zamla, zamula** – yawn (and stretch)  
**zembe** – axe  
**zenze** – flea  
**zimbila, zimbira** – xylophone  
**zindla** – think over, meditate  
**zingela** – hunt (v)  
**zinkomo** – cattle  
**zinwele** – hair  
**zinyo** – tooth  
**zinyo ga ndlovu** – ivory  
**zipo** – fingernail, toenail; claw  
**zipondo ga lo baisikil** – handle-bars  
**zo** – will, shall (futurity)  
**zonda** – hate (v)  
**zondo** – hatred  
**zonke** – all, every, entire  
**zonke-ndawo** – everywhere  
**zonke langa, zonke ntsuku** – every day  
**zonkeskati** – every time, always  
**zulu** (lozulu) – sky, heaven; atmosphere; weather; lightning  
**zuma** (v) – surprise, ambush  
**zumayo** – sudden  
**zuza** – acquire, earn, gain  
**zwane** – toe





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